United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/693/Rev.1*
31 July 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends mandate of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for another period of six months, until 31 January 1991. Hears statement by Council President.

+ Economic and Social Council concludes in Geneva first part of summer session, adopting a number of resolutions and decisions, among them a condemnation of those transnational corporations that continue to collaborate with the racist regime of South Africa, and of the United Kingdom Government's decision to lift unilaterally the Community's ban on new investments in South Africa. It also condemned the Hungarian Government's decision to begin commercial, economic and political links with the apartheid regime.

+ Special Committee against Apartheid expresses "serious concern" at South Africa's arrest of official of African National Congress.

* * *

The Security Council today unanimously renewed the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for another period of six months, until 31 January 1991.

The President of the Council, Razali Ismail of Malaysia, in a statement on behalf of its members, reaffirmed their commitment to the full sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries. In that context, he said the Council asserted that any State should refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State "or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations".

He said that as the Council had extended the mandate of UNIFIL for a further interim period on the basis of resolution 425 of 1978, Council members stressed again the need for the implementation of that resolution in all its aspects. They expressed their appreciation for the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General and his staff in that regard.

(more)

* Reissued to correct second paragraph.

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The Council reiterated its full support for the Taif Agreement and the efforts of the Lebanese Government to extend its authority over all Lebanese territory. It commended UNIFIL's troops and troop-contributing countries for their sacrifices and commitment to the cause of international peace and security under the difficult circumstances.

The Council had before it a report of 24 July of the Secretary-General in which he recommends that it accept the Lebanese Government's request to extend UNIFIL's mandate, for another six months, because the Force, he states, "continues to make an important contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security in a volatile area".

In an addendum to that report the Secretary-General drew the Council's attention to recent confrontations between the Norwegian UNIFIL battalion and the Israeli Defence Force in the area of the Norwegian battalion which has been occupied by Israel since 1982. He said UNIFIL had continued to do everything possible to ensure the peaceful character of the area and described the recent building of a road by the Israeli Defence Force in that area, despite UNIFIL's vigorous protests.

If the Israeli forces continued to operate in the Norwegian section, it might become "necessary for the Council to consider whether UNIFIL's role in that area should be changed", the Secretary-General stated.

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The Economic and Social Council last Friday concluded the first part of its second regular session of 1990 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva by adopting a series of resolutions and decisions. It will continue the work of the session in New York at a date to be determined.

In a concluding statement, the President of the Economic and Social Council, Chinmaya R. Gharekhan of India, said the momentous developments in Eastern and Central Europe, which had yet to reach their denouement, provided the backdrop for the 1990 session of the Council, but the critical economic situation in developing countries, particularly in Africa, Latin America and parts of Asia, had continued to give rise to grave concern. While different views were expressed about the future prospects and policy prescriptions, there was broad agreement that the revival of growth and development in the developing countries should remain a priority objective of international economic co-operation.

Among the resolutions, the Council condemned those transnational corporations that continued to collaborate with the racist regime of South Africa as well as the decision of the Government of the United Kingdom to lift unilaterally the ban of the Commission of European Communities on new investments in South Africa. It further condemned the decision of the Government of Hungary to initiate commercial, economic and political links with the apartheid regime, and called on that country to rescind its decision without delay.

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By a resolution on co-operation in fisheries in Africa, the Council called on African States to develop joint research programmes to promote better integration of the fishery and aquaculture sector in their national economies in order to increase its contribution to development. The Council also requested the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in association with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), to assist African countries to establish such a network.

Under a resolution on refugees, displaced persons and returnees, the Economic and Social Council asked the Secretary-General to initiate a United Nations system-wide review to assess the experience and capacity of various organizations in the co-ordination of assistance to all refugees, displaced persons and returnees, and the entire spectrum of their needs in supporting the efforts of the countries affected by the influx.

Other resolutions adopted touched on such questions as consumer protection, prevention and control of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), and transforming and strengthening the ECA Multinational Programme and Operational Centres.

* * *

The Special Committee against Apartheid has been informed that Sathyandranath (Mac) Maharaj, a senior member of the National Executive of the African National Congress (ANC) and member of the central committee of the South African Communist Party, was arrested in Johannesburg last week.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Committee said that the arrest of Mr. Maharaj was a matter of "serious concern" to it and that it showed once more that an atmosphere of free political activity did not exist in South Africa.

The Special Committee said detention without trial of Mr. Maharaj undermined "seriously" the impact of the Government's lifting of the ban on political organizations -- the only measure that had been implemented concerning the creation of a climate conducive to negotiations. The Committee also raised doubts about the intentions and tactics of the authorities in Pretoria. In spite of that negative development, it was the Committee's hope that the process of negotiations would not be derailed.

The arrest was carried out under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act, which provides for detention without trial. Mr. Maharaj, who had recently been allowed into the country under the provisions of the Indemnity Act, was one of many individuals arrested in recent days.

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READEX FICHE

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/694
1 August 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations Spokesman says Secretary-General met with Ambassador of Liberia who described to him situation in his country and asked for assistance in trying to bring about solution.

+ President Cristiani-Burkard of El Salvador, in letter to Secretary-General, protests against alleged murder by FMLN of two members of Constitutional Army of El Salvador and says those actions cast "grave doubt" on FMLN's "serious intentions" and "good faith" in dialogue, as agreed on 4 April in Geneva by Government of El Salvador, FMLN and endorsed by Secretary-General.

+ Secretary-General, in statement delivered on his behalf to nineteenth Conference of Foreign Ministers of Organization of the Islamic Conference, says in manner unparalleled since establishment of United Nations, there is now opportunity for nations, large and small, to work together for resolution of conflicts and maintenance of international peace and harmony.

* * *

A United Nations official told correspondents at Headquarters today that the Secretary-General had met with the Ambassador of Liberia who had presented to him the case of his country and had asked for assistance in trying to bring about a solution.

The official said the Secretary-General had asked for some time to reflect on this question and to consult with the other countries in the region and with the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

In an answer to a question, the official said the President of Liberia, Samuel K. Doe, in a letter of 4 June, had asked the Secretary-General that the United Nations come to the assistance of his country by organizing a round table with the opposing forces, by establishing a cease-fire and by holding free and fair elections.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The official said that what was in mind in the request of the Liberian Ambassador today, however, was not a United Nations peace-keeping force in that country, or a Security Council meeting, but a good offices mission by the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General was scheduled to meet with the Liberian Ambassador again later today.

* * *

The President of El Salvador, Alfredo F. Cristiani-Burkard, in a letter to the Secretary-General dated 19 July, has protested "most vigorously" against the alleged murder, on 9 and 17 July respectively, of Major Carlos Figueroa Morales and Captain Ramón Aristides Reyes, members of the Constitutional Army of El Salvador, by the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN). The wife of Captain Reyes, Cecilia Margarita Sandoval de Reyes, was seriously wounded in the alleged attack.

The Permanent Representative of El Salvador, Ricardo G. Castaneda, requested last Monday that the letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

In the letter, the El Salvadoran President stated that such "acts of terrorism", which were allegedly committed just before the third round of talks in Costa Rica between his Government and FMLN, constituted "flagrant and undeniable violations" of human rights.

He said such actions by FMLN cast "grave doubt" on whether the groups had the serious intentions and good faith they needed in order to comply with their commitment to the dialogue in accordance with the spirit of the Agreement signed on 4 April in Geneva by his Government and FMLN and endorsed by the Secretary-General.

President Cristiani-Burkard asked the Secretary-General that he, through his Special Representative, urge FMLN to reflect upon its actions and to "renounce violence as a means of solving political and social conflicts in El Salvador".

The Security Council is scheduled to meet in consultations tomorrow at 4 p.m., in order to be briefed by the Secretary-General on the situation in El Salvador.

* * *

The Secretary-General, in a statement delivered on his behalf in Cairo yesterday to the nineteenth Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, said that in a manner unparalleled since establishment of United Nations, there was now an opportunity for nations, large and small, to work together for the resolution of conflicts and the maintenance of international peace and harmony. However, despite the positive political changes which had taken place in the international

situation, there remained a number of unresolved issues that were a source of great concern.

Foremost among those were the question of the Middle East and of Palestine in particular, the Secretary-General said. In Afghanistan too, despite the Geneva Accords, human lives were still being lost and efforts must be intensified to bring about an international consensus on the basis of which the problems of the long-suffering Afghan people could be solved. Peace must also be attained between Iran and Iraq on the basis of the full implementation of Security Council resolution 598. He welcomed recent developments in the relations between the two countries.

The Secretary-General also touched upon the problem of external indebtedness of the developing countries. The crisis of those countries had reached unprecedented dimensions, with many of their economies affected by a negative growth rate and stagnation. That trend was in stark contrast to the continuing and unprecedented levels of prosperity enjoyed by developed countries, the Secretary-General said, and the United Nations was endeavouring to address those problems in a variety of ways.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/695
2 August 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council condemns Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in emergency meeting convened at 5 a.m. Resolution, which is adopted by 14 votes to none, with Yemen not participating, calls for Iraq and Kuwait immediately to begin intensive negotiations and expresses support for all efforts in that regard, with particular reference to efforts of Arab League.

+ Secretary-General says Iraq's invasion of Kuwait is of "gravest consequence" to United Nations, in statement following Council's adoption of resolution of condemnation.

+ Technical survey mission to Western Sahara and neighbouring countries is in Morocco to investigate aspects of possible United Nations operation to organize credible referendum in the Territory.

+ Japan pays in full its contribution to the United Nations for 1990 -- $71.8 million; and United States pays $62.6 million towards its outstanding contributions to the United Nations regular budget.

+ Canada's Ambassador to United Nations and Executive Director of United Nations Children's Fund brief correspondents on World Summit for Children scheduled to be held at Headquarters on 29 and 30 September.

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In an emergency meeting convened just before dawn, the Security Council condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait some 11 hours earlier and demanded that Iraq immediately and unconditionally withdraw its forces to the positions they had occupied yesterday.

The resolution of condemnation was adopted by 14 votes in favour, with no negative votes and no abstentions, with Yemen not participating.

The text called for Iraq and Kuwait immediately to begin intensive negotiations to resolve their differences and expressed support for all efforts in that regard, with particular reference to the efforts of the Arab League.

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For information media—not an official record

Before the resolution was adopted, the Council was addressed by the representatives of both parties to the dispute. Mohammad A. Abulhasan of Kuwait said Iraq had announced its intention to overthrow his Government. Kuwait had expressed its willingness to continue bilateral negotiations in order to reach a solution agreeable to both countries, he said. The problem must be solved by peaceful means, not by force. The situation was a test for the Council and was important to the peace and security of all nations, he stated, particularly those which were small and insecure.

Speaking for Iraq, Sabah Talat Kadrat insisted the matter was an internal matter which should not have been brought before the Council. Iraq was helping the new provisional Government of Kuwait to restore domestic order, he said, and would withdraw its forces as soon as that goal was achieved.

Also addressing the Council, Thomas R. Pickering of the United States said his country had made clear that it would stand "shoulder to shoulder with Kuwait in this time of crisis". His Government understood that the present aggression had been completely unprovoked, he said.

Statements were also made by Colombia, Canada, France, Malaysia, the United Kingdom, Finland, the Soviet Union, China and Romania.

The resolution was sponsored by Canada, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Malaysia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Council remains seized of the matter and, according to the resolution, intends to meet again as necessary to consider further steps to ensure compliance with its wishes.

Later today a United Nations spokeswoman said the Secretary-General was maintaining close contact with the Ministers of the Arab League who were currently meeting in Cairo to discuss the situation. She said the Secretary-General had said that the United Nations should await the outcome of those discussions.

The Ambassador of Kuwait, Mr. Abulhasan, briefed correspondents at Headquarters on the situation in his country after the Iraqi invasion.

He called on members of the world community in general to promptly pressure Iraq towards halting the aggression and to immediately withdraw its troops from the entire Kuwaiti soil. Mr. Abulhasan said the Emir, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs were well, safe and conducting the affairs of the State.

He underscored that what had occurred since yesterday was an occupation of all Kuwaiti territory. All countries were urged to lend their assistance to Kuwait in dealing with the crisis, he said.

* * *

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After the Security Council meeting this morning, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in a statement that he was pleased to see that the Council had met promptly and had taken an important decision on the problem between the two countries. He said the events of the past two hours were of the "gravest consequence" to the United Nations and its Member countries.

As the Secretary-General of the World Organization, whose duty it was to serve as custodian of its Charter, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said he could do no less than quote Article 2.3 and 2.4 of the Charter: "All members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered" ... and that "All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations".

* * *

The technical survey mission to Western Sahara and neighbouring countries arrived in Casablanca, Morocco, last Sunday to begin a 10-day investigation of the aspects of a possible United Nations peace plan in that area.

Responding to journalists' questions there, Issa Diallo, head of the mission, said that, in a span of two weeks in the Territory and the region, it would be able to somewhat assess what the United Nations could count on in its role with regard to infrastructure and equipment.

He said it was an important mission as it would permit its participants to evaluate the measures to be taken and to update the information that was obtained two years ago when the first evaluation was made.

Last Tuesday, Mr. Diallo was received by King Hassan II, who conveyed a special message through him to the Secretary-General.

From 29 July to 1 August, the mission met in Rabat with the Minister of Interior and Information, as well as with senior officials of the various departments of the Moroccan Government. On ending consultations with their Moroccan counterparts, mission members then flew to Ayoun, where the mission was seeking to obtain more information that would facilitate the United Nations task in carrying out the referendum.

The mission is scheduled to leave the Territory for Mauritania on 5 August.

* * *

A United Nations official announced yesterday that the delegation of Japan had informed the Secretary-General that Japan will be paying in full its outstanding contribution for 1990 -- $71.8 million -- to the United Nations regular budget.

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The official said that the Secretary-General was gratified that the Japanese Government had taken this decision which, he said, "will help the United Nations relieve the difficult financial situation".

Today it was announced that the United States had paid $62.6 million of its outstanding contributions to the budget. The money was received yesterday.

* * *

Briefing correspondents today on the World Summit for Children scheduled to be held at Headquarters on 29 and 30 September, the Ambassador of Canada, Yves Fortier, said some 60 Heads of State or Government had already agreed to attend the Summit. That list included President George Bush of the United States, Prime Minister Mulroney of Canada, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan and United Nations Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar.

Also present at the briefing was James Grant, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which will serve as the Secretariat of the Summit meeting.

Mr. Fortier, on behalf of Prime Minister Mulroney, one of the co-chairs of the Summit, said one of its primary objectives in calling for the Summit was already well on its way towards achievement. The six initiating Governments -- Canada, Egypt, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan and Sweden -- had sought to accelerate the normal pace or ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted last November by the General Assembly. The Convention will enter into force after it has been ratified by 20 countries, 18 had already acted, making it likely that the Convention would be in force before the Summit would convene, Mr. Fortier said, adding that no other human rights treaty had ever come into force so quickly.

The Summit, which has a budget of $1.5 million, will focus on universal problems affecting children, including protection of their health from readily preventable diseases, inadequate nutrition, education, homelessness and abandonment, drugs, the impact of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), labour and exploitation.

The Summit Planning Committee, whose membership has grown from the original six initiators to over 70 countries, has been working since January on a declaration and plan of action for the 1990s to be proposed to the Summit.

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Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/696
3 August 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General meets with Ambassador of Iraq on Iraqi-Kuwaiti situation; meets with Ambassador of Kuwait who informs him of developments there.

+ In informal consultations, Secretary-General briefs Security Council on recent round of talks in El Salvador and his efforts on Liberia.

+ Office of United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator launches urgent appeal for emergency assistance for 8,000 Sierra Leonean returnees and displaced Guineans who have arrived from Liberia.

+ Delegation to investigate question of Cambodia returns from two-week mission to Japan, Indonesia and Austria. Holds consultations in Jakarta with six Foreign Ministers of Association of South-East Asian Nations who express support for enhanced United Nations role and establishment of Supreme National Council as key elements of comprehensive political settlement.

+ Secretary-General appoints Major-General Hans Christensen as Chief of Staff of United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

* * *

A United Nations spokeswoman announced today that Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar had met with the Ambassador of Iraq, Abdul Amir A. Al-Anbari, to discuss with him the situation on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti front.

The Secretary-General appealed for the full implementation of yesterday's Security Council resolution 660, which calls for Iraq and Kuwait immediately to begin intensive negotiations and expresses support for all efforts in that regard, with particular reference to efforts of the Arab League.

The Iraqi Ambassador and the Secretary-General also discussed the state of negotiations on the Iran-Iraq question and the implementation of Council resolution 598 of July 1987, and the direct contacts between Iran and Iraq recently begun in Geneva.

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For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General had also met with the Ambassador of Kuwait, Mohammad A. Abulhasan, who informed the him about the latest developments in his country.

* * *

The Secretary-General then held informal consultations with the Council on the recent rounds of talks on EL Salvador, mediated by his Personal Representative, and on his efforts regarding Liberia.

He told correspondents that no decision had been taken on the situation in Kuwait, but that it was his impression that there would be intensive consultations during the weekend.

Asked if he thought the Iran-Iraq talks would be threatened by the present situation, he said he did not think so, because it was a different problem.

Responding to a question about sanctions, the Secretary-General said that one of the resources available in the United Nations Charter was to impose sanctions, but that was for the Council members to decide.

Following the informal consultations of the Council, the Secretary-General was scheduled to meet with the five permanent members of the Council to discuss the Iraqi-Kuwaiti situation.

* * *

The Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) today launched an urgent appeal for emergency assistance for 8,000 Sierra Leonean returnees and displaced Guineans who have just arrived from the crisis-stricken country of Liberia.

Those seeking to return to Guinea use Sierra Leone as a transit point. Both groups are said to have arrived in Sierra Leone in destitute condition. Emergency assistance has been requested for a three-month period because resources are now very limited.

According to UNDRO, if immediate relief assistance is not provided, the nutritional and health situations will deteriorate rapidly.

Donors are requested to contact UNDRO directly at Geneva.

* * *

A United Nations delegation to investigate the question of Cambodia returned from a mission to Japan, Indonesia and Austria last Tuesday. The delegation, of the Ad Hoc Committee on the International Conference on Kampuchea, which had been traveling for the past two weeks, was led by the Chairman of the Committee, Absa-Claude Diallo of Senegal.

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In Jakarta, the mission held consultations with the Foreign Ministers of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The Foreign Ministers stressed the need for negotiation on a settlement of the Cambodian problem and urged the redoubling of efforts towards the achievement of a comprehensive political settlement. They also expressed support for an enhanced United Nations role and the establishment of the Supreme National Council as key elements of a settlement.

The delegation assured the Foreign Ministers that the Ad Hoc Committee would continue to work for the realization of a comprehensive political settlement, as called for by the Declaration of the International Conference on Kampuchea. The delegation agreed with the Foreign Ministers that the Supreme National Council, once formed, should represent Cambodia at the United Nations, and concurred in the hope that that would happen prior to the opening of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

The Committee is scheduled to meet in early September to enable the mission to report on the results of its consultations in Japan, Indonesia and Austria.

* * *

The Secretary-General announced today the appointment of Major-General Hans Christensen of Finland as Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) with effect from 26 October. He will replace Lieutenant-General Martin Vadset of Norway.

Major-General Christensen has held a wide variety of command and staff appointments in the Defence Forces of Finland. In 1980, he was appointed Brigade Commander of the Uusimaa Brigade and at the time of his appointment as Chief of Staff of UNTSO was the Chief of the Department of Military Affairs at Finland's Ministry of Defence.

In that capacity Major-General Christensen had primary responsibility for all activities concerning Finnish participation in United Nations peace-keeping operations and has visited United Nations peace-keeping operations in the Middle East on many occasions.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/697
6 August 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council calls for mandatory economic sanctions against Iraq for its invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

+ Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination begins thirty-eighth session in Geneva; hears opening statement by Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights.

* * *

The Security Council this afternoon adopted a resolution calling on the international community to impose mandatory economic sanctions against Iraq for its invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

The resolution, adopted by a vote of 13 in favour to none against, with 2 abstentions (Cuba and Yemen), also expressed concern that the resolution adopted last Thursday, condemning the invasion and demanding the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi forces, had not been implemented.

Referring to Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the resolution called on countries to prevent "any activities by their nationals or in their territories which would promote or are calculated to promote the export or transshipment of any commodities or products from Iraq or Kuwait" including weapons or military equipment.

Under the resolution, the Council also decided to establish a Committee consisting of Council members, to examine reports on the progress of implementing the resolution and to seek information from countries regarding the action taken by them in that respect.

Speaking before the vote, Mohammad A. Abulhasan of Kuwait said no withdrawal of Iraqi troops had occurred. On the contrary, he said, Iraq was increasing and consolidating its presence in Kuwait.

Speaking after the representative of Kuwait, Abdul Amir A. Al-Anbari of Iraq said that withdrawal had begun. He said the resolution before the Council exacerbated the crisis in the Gulf region and impeded troop

(more)

For information media—not an official record

withdrawal. He added that, regrettably, a super-Power was trying to use the Security Council to realize its own objectives.

The United States representative, Thomas Pickering, said his country had joined nine others in sponsoring the draft resolution. Iraq controlled 30 per cent of the Gulf region's oil production and that constituted a threat to international economic health and stability, he said.

The sanctions imposed today by the Security Council are effective until Iraq fully implements last week's Council decision and withdraws its troops from Kuwait.

* * *

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, a United Nations human rights monitoring body composed of 18 expert members, began its thirty-eighth session today at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The session, which will last until 26 August, will be essentially devoted to the examination of reports by States parties with regard to efforts they have undertaken for the effective implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The Committee will consider, among other things, its agenda item entitled "Second Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1983-1993)" and will conclude the session by adopting its report to the General Assembly.

In his opening address, Jan Martenson, Under-Secretary General for Human Rights, said he shared the disappointment of the Committee for the cancellation of its spring session owing to lack of payment of contributions.

He informed the Committee, however, that the Commission on Human Rights, last February, had recommended that the Secretary-General seek to obtain, at the earliest opportunity, the establishment of a "contingency reserve fund" which would be used to finance, on a contingency basis, the spring meetings of the Committee in any year for which sufficient State payments were not received in time.

The Under-Secretary-General observed that positive results had been achieved, of late, in the combat against racial discrimination, particularly in southern Africa, as reflected in the apartheid system. He informed the Committee in that regard that the Centre for Human Rights had already initiated contacts with academic circles in South Africa to see how it could best assist in improving human rights courses at the universities.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/698
7 August 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ President of Security Council holds consultations regarding Committee established to monitor compliance with sanctions imposed against Iraq.

+ Secretary-General welcomes agreement reached by South African Government and African National Congress.

* * *

A United Nations official said today that the President of the Security Council had been holding consultations on the first meeting of the Committee of the Whole which was established by yesterday's decision of the Council to monitor Member States' compliance with the mandatory sanctions imposed against Iraq.

The official said the Committee consisted of the 15 members of the Council, while a bureau would be established consisting of a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman, also from the Council.

Once the President had established the membership of the bureau through consultations with members of the Security Council, the Committee would hold its first meeting, elect the bureau and look into its programme of work.

According to Council resolution 661, the Secretary-General had been requested to do two things: firstly, "to provide all necessary assistance to the Committee and to make the necessary arrangements in the Secretariat for that purpose"; and secondly, "to report to the Council on the progress of the implementation of the present resolution, the first report to be submitted within 30 days".

The Secretary-General had sent a cable yesterday to all Member States of the Organization, transmitting the resolution. The next step would be to send a note verbale to Member States requesting them to provide information on the measures they had taken to comply with the resolution.

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For information media—not an official record

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar today welcomed the agreement reached by the Government of South Africa and the African National Congress (ANC). He hoped that the agreement would accelerate the political progress towards negotiation for a new constitution and for the dismantlement of the apartheid system.

After 15 hours of deliberations yesterday, the Government of South Africa and ANC agreed on the release of ANC-related political prisoners and the granting of indemnity to be completed no later than the end of April 1991.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/699
8 August 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General urges prompt implementation of Security Council resolution on invasion of Kuwait. Says measures taken to deal with crisis "should be in full conformity with Charter".

+ Soviet Union pays $45.9 million towards its outstanding contributions to the United Nations regular budget.

* * *

A spokeswoman for Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said today in a statement that the events of the past 24 hours underlined the gravity of the crisis set in motion by the invasion of Kuwait.

The Secretary-General was, of course, strongly of the view that Security Council resolution 660 should be implemented promptly, she said. In his opinion any measures that were to be taken to deal with this crisis should be fully in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and directed towards the fulfilment of the recently adopted decisions of the Security Council. The Secretary-General appeals to all concerned parties to exercise the utmost restraint so that the crisis can be contained and resolved.

The spokeswoman also told correspondents that the Secretary-General had called the recent United States moves in the Gulf region "parallel" to the decisions of the Security Council. The United States' action was a preventive decision and it was the Secretary-General's only hope that this decision would help in easing and not increasing the tension in the area, she said.

* * *

It was announced at Headquarters that the Soviet Union yesterday paid $45.9 million towards its regular budget assessment for 1990. The announcement follows payments by the United States and Japan, bringing the total the Organization has received during the past week to over $180 million.

A balance of nearly $670 million still remains outstanding.

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For information media—not an official record

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/700
9 August 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, by unanimous vote, declares Iraq's annexation of Kuwait "null and void".

+ Secretary-General tells correspondents that he is "pleased" by Council's decision.

+ Secretary-General sends message to Anti-Apartheid Committee's commemoration of International Solidarity with Struggle of Women in South Africa.

+ United Nations Mission to visit Angola to discuss with Government ways to expand emergency relief.

* * *

The Security Council this morning unanimously declared Iraq's annexation of Kuwait to be "null and void" and demanded that Iraq rescind its declaration yesterday of a "comprehensive and eternal merger" with Kuwait.

It did so by adopting resolution 662, in which it also called on States and institutions not to recognize the annexation and to refrain from any action that might be interpreted as an indirect recognition of Iraq's illegal actions.

After the text was adopted, statements in explanation of vote were made by representatives of the United States, France, the Soviet Union, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ethiopia, Malaysia, China, Cuba, Finland, Colombia and Romania.

Kuwait welcomed the resolution, calling on the Council to see that the sanctions were fully implemented, and to support the efforts of the legitimate Government of Kuwait to restore its authority. It further urged the Council to call upon the occupier to respect the principles of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

(more)

Oman, on behalf of the Gulf Co-operation Council, expressed full support for the role of the United Nations and the Security Council and for the legitimate Government of Kuwait.

Iraq denied the accusations against it, and added that a member of the Security Council had taken unilateral military steps which were the cause of the current instability in the region. In the past, colonizers had redrawn the geopolitical map in order to weaken the Arab States. Iraq had decided in the interests of reunification to restore to itself a part that had been taken away from it.

The United States, responding to Iraq's statement, challenged the suggestion that the situation was somehow the fault of the United States and recalled that, in contrast to its current quest for "reunification", Iraq had previously declared its recognition of Kuwaiti independence and sovereignty.

The representative of the Soviet Union said his country wished to maintain its friendly ties with Iraq, even at this time. However, the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Kuwait must be restored.

The Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 to monitor the implementation of sanctions against Iraq was scheduled to hold its first meeting this afternoon.

* * *

The Secretary-General told correspondents, upon leaving the Security Council today, that he was pleased with its unanimous decision to declare Iraq's annexation of Kuwait "null and void".

He added that he was proud of the way in which the Council had dealt with that very complicated problem. In less than eight days it had produced three resolutions which were evidence of the sense of responsibility of its members.

Asked by a correspondent if he thought that the moral authority of the Council was going to be enough to dissuade Iraq, he replied that that was his hope. It was Iraq's obligation to comply with the resolutions of the Council, he said.

Another correspondent asked if the Secretary-General welcomed the Soviet idea that the Military Staff Committee of the Security Council should become involved in the matter. The Secretary-General replied that he thought it was an interesting idea which deserved full consideration, but that it was for the Council to move from Article 41 to Article 42 of the Charter. It was not for him to decide.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General told correspondents after his meeting with members of the Gulf Co-operation Council that he had been in touch with the International Red Cross in order to see how the population in Kuwait could

be helped. He said the Red Cross was trying to send a mission to the area in order to look at the situation, but that no response had been obtained from Iraq yet.

* * *

The active involvement of women in the process of change and the need for them to be beneficiaries of the political transformation cannot be over-emphasized, the Secretary-General stated in a message read out this morning as the Special Committee against Apartheid commemorated the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa.

In the new phase that South Africa was entering, where the prospects for a negotiated settlement of the conflict were within reach, the women of South Africa had legitimate expectations that their role in the new society would be fully recovered and their equal status be guaranteed, the Secretary-General said.

The Chairman of the Special Committee, Ibrahim A. Gambari of Nigeria, said the Committee believed that the present situation in South Africa held the promise for the dismantlement of apartheid through negotiations and for the creation of a non-racial democracy in that country. He urged the international community to continue to assist in the process towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict by maintaining the required pressure as agreed to in the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, adopted at the General Assembly's special session last year.

The International Day of Solidarity has been held annually since 1981 when the General Assembly proclaimed 9 August as the day commemorating the demonstration in 1956 by women against the South African "pass laws".

* * *

It was announced today at Headquarters that the Secretary-General has made arrangements for a high-level United Nations Mission to visit Luanda this weekend to discuss with the Government of Angola ways and means by which the current emergency relief programme in Angola can be expanded to cover all provinces severely affected by drought and famine.

The provinces include those of Moxico and Cuando Cubango where access hitherto had not been possible because of the ongoing conflict. The Mission will be led by Abdulrahim A. Farah, Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions.

In May this year, the Secretary-General launched an appeal for emergency food assistance for various provinces in Angola which had been severely hit by drought. The assessment of requirements was made jointly by a team composed of representatives of the Government, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations. The team was not able to visit the provinces of Moxico and Cuando Cubango at the time.

During the course of its mission, the team will also review the emergency relief programme already in place in Angola, particularly in the context of the serious drought conditions in the Benguela and Huila provinces.

* *** *

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/701
10 August 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Committee established by Security Council to monitor carrying out of mandatory sanctions against Iraq holds first meeting. Elects Chairman and Vice-Chairmen.

+ Secretary-General receives letter from President of the Gambia on arrangements for cease-fire monitoring group in Liberia.

* * *

The Committee established by the Security Council to monitor the implementation of the mandatory sanctions imposed by the Council against Iraq held its first meeting yesterday afternoon.

Composed of all members of the Council, the Committee elected Marjatta Rasi of Finland as its Chairman and the representatives of Canada and Colombia as Vice-Chairmen.

The Committee was established by resolution 661 (1990) which imposed sanctions against Iraq for its failure to withdraw its forces from Kuwait as called for in a previous decision of the Council (resolution 660).

The Committee is mandated to examine the reports, which would be submitted by the Secretary-General, on the progress of implementing the sanctions. States have been requested by the Secretary-General to supply such information no later than 25 August.

The Committee will meet again next Friday, 17 August.

* * *

It was announced at United Nations Headquarters today that the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has made arrangements to dispatch to Liberia as soon as practicable a cease-fire monitoring group.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The announcement comes after a summit meeting held in the Gambia this week by the West African countries on ways and means to end the hostilities and violence in the country.

The Secretary-General met this morning with the Foreign Minister of the Gambia, Omar Sey, who delivered a letter, containing the plans to form the monitoring group, from Gambian President Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority of the Heads of State and Government.

After the meeting, the Secretary-General reiterated his concern and alarm about the continuing deteriorating situation in Liberia. He called on all combatants to respect the human rights of the people and to agree to an immediate cease-fire and thereby halt the senseless slaughter that is now occurring.

The Secretary-General also called on all sides to co-operate fully with the ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) since such co-operation was absolutely essential for the effective functioning of the peace-keeping force.

He said a successful peace-keeping role of ECOWAS in Liberia would enable the United Nations system to resume its humanitarian assistance programme in Liberia which had been suspended because of the conflict.

The United Nations has already instituted relief programmes for more than 30,000 Liberians who have fled to neighbouring countries.

* *** *

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/702
13 August 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council consults on situation between Iraq and Kuwait.

+ Liechtenstein applies for admission to United Nations membership.

+ World Food Programme allocates $16 million for emergency aid to regional victims of civil strife in Liberia.

+ Survey Mission to Western Sahara and Neighbouring Countries completes collection of data.

+ Secretary-General to visit three Latin American countries.

+ Sea Law Preparatory Commission resumes work in New York.

+ Conference on economic adjustments in arms reduction era opens in Moscow.

* * *

The Security Council held consultations this morning on the situation between Iraq and Kuwait.

Questioned by correspondents on the matter of blockade as he arrived at Headquarters this morning, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he understood that the word "blockade" was not the right one from the United Nations point of view. "What we are seeing is that in agreement with the Governments of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, some decisions have been taken by the United States, France, Britain and other countries, and even Arab countries, but not in the context of the United Nations resolutions. Only the United Nations through its Security Council resolutions can really decide about a blockade", he said.

* * *

The Principality of Liechtenstein has applied for admission to membership in the United Nations

(more)

For information media—not an official record

In a declaration accompanying the application, Hans-Adam II, the reigning Prince of Liechtenstein, pledged that the Principality would fulfil the obligations contained in the Charter.

The Security Council is expected to make its recommendation tomorrow on the application. General Assembly will act on the Security Council's recommendation.

* * *

More than $16 million worth of emergency food aid will be provided by the World Food Programme (WFP) to four countries in West Africa to help feed 380,000 victims of civil strife in Liberia. The food will be channelled through international relief agencies to displaced persons within Liberia and to Liberian refugees in Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

Other food aid has been allocated to Nicaragua, Rwanda and the Philippines.

* * *

The head of the United Nations Technical Survey Mission to Western Sahara and Neighbouring Countries, Issa Diallo, declared yesterday that all the members of the Mission were satisfied with the results of their visits and that they had collected all the information and data they were seeking.

During the two week mission, the United Nations team traveled to Morocco, Mauritania, Western Sahara and Algeria, and met with officials of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamura and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO), as well as Government leaders.

In the course of this trip, the United Nations Mission received assurances of co-operation from POLISARIO and the Government of Mauritania.

On his way back to New York, Mr. Diallo is due to stop over in Geneva to review the Mission's performance with Ambassador Johannes Manz, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara.

The United Nations Mission went to the area to assess requirements for infrastructure and equipment in connection with a projected United Nations referendum in Western Sahara.

* * *

The Secretary-General will leave New York tomorrow for visits to Peru, Chile and Colombia.

While in Peru, he will examine how the United Nations system might help that country in its dire economic and social situation.

(more)

Mr. Perez de Cuellar will be going on to Santiago on Sunday, 19 August, and to Bogota on Wednesday, 22 August. He expects to return to New York during the weekend of 26-27 August.

* * *

The Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea resumed work in New York today to pave the way for the institutions to be created when the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea comes into effect.

Among the main issues facing the Preparatory Commission at its three-week session, scheduled to conclude on Friday, 31 August, will be practical arrangements for carrying out the obligations of registered pioneer investors and regulations on the protection and preservation of the marine environment in connection with sea-bed mining.

* * *

A major international conference on "Conversion: Economic Adjustments in an Era of Arms Reduction" began today in Moscow.

More than 100 participants from some 40 countries are expected to attend the week-long meeting which is the first conference on the subject organized by the United Nations.

A central issue to be discussed is the reorientation and reallocation of resources within economies carrying out arms reductions.

* *** *

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/703
14 August 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council unanimously recommends admission of Liechenstein to UN membership.

+ Special Committee on decolonization urges resumed negotiations for peaceful solution to sovereignty dispute over Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and continued dialogue to promote self-determination for New Caledonia.

+ Food And Agriculture Organization forecasts rise in world cereal output, but warns of shortages in parts of Africa.

* * *

The Security Council today gave its unanimous approval to a resolution recommending the admission of the Principality of Liechenstein to membership in the United Nations.

With approval of the recommendation by the General Assembly, Liechenstein would become the 160th member of the world Organization.

* * *

The United Nations Special Committee on decolonization today urged Argentina and the United Kingdom to resume negotiations aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

Adopting a resolution on the question sponsored by Chile, Cuba and Venezuela, the Committee regretted that implementation of General Assembly resolutions on the subject had not yet begun and expressed support for the Secretary-General's renewed mission of good offices.

In an earlier action yesterday, the Committee urged all parties involved in the question of New Caledonia to continue their dialogue aimed at promoting progress towards an act of self-determination that would safeguard the rights of all New Caledonians.

(more)

The Committee approved a draft resolution to that effect on the basis of a text sponsored by Fiji.

The resolution noted positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities to promote the political, economic and social development of the Territory. It also acknowledged the close links between New Caledonia and the peoples of the South Pacific, as well as positive actions of the French authorities to help further those links.

* * *

For the first time in four years, world cereal production is likely to meet consumption, according to this month's Food Outlook bulletin of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This is attributed mainly to an upward revision in the estimate of the Soviet harvest, which more than compensates for a reduction in the United States coarse grain crop.

The FAO bulletin goes on to warn, however, that while the harvest outlook for cereals is favourable in most countries in Africa, a poor start to the growing season in Ethiopia and the Sudan gives cause for concern. Moreover, civil strife is disrupting marketing and distribution of food in Liberia while serious food emergencies continue in Angola and Mozambique, pointing to the need for continued substantial emergency food assistance in 1991.

* *** *

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/704
15 August 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General welcomes Iraqi letter to Iran.

+ Decolonization Committee approves draft reaffirming right of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence.

+ Secretary-General meets with leaders of Peru.

+ Conference on conversion of military industry to civilian enterprises receives messages from Secretary-General and Soviet State President.

+ Weapons of Nicaraguan Contras that were handed over to United Nations to be used to make artificial limbs.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said today that the letter sent yesterday by President Hussein of Iraq to President Rafsanjani of Iran appeared to represent a major new development in efforts aimed at implementing Security Council resolution 598 of 1987 which became the framework for a cease-fire agreement between the two countries. In a statement issued through a spokeswoman after receiving the text of the letter, Mr. Perez de Cuellar welcomed the development and said he was encouraged by the stated Iraqi intention to begin the withdrawal of troops from Iran on Friday, 17 August as well as the repatriation of the prisoners-of-war on the same day. He said it now appeared that implementation of the resolution would be carried out on the basis of respect for the principles of international law.

The Secretary-General has instructed the Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group to be at the disposal of the parties and to perform its role under the resolution, which provided for verification of the cease-fire and withdrawal of forces.

* * *

(more)

By a vote of 8 in favour to one against, with 12 abstentions, the Special Committee on Decolonization today approved a resolution reaffirming the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence, in conformity with the United Nations Declaration on decolonization.

Sponsored by Venezuela and Cuba, the resolution called on all interested parties to co-operate so that the people of Puerto Rico might exercise that right without hindrance.

The representative of Norway, who voted against, said the draft contradicted a resolution of the General Assembly which had determined that the people of Puerto Rico had already exercised their right to self-determination.

* * *

The Secretary-General arrived in Lima yesterday and met with President Alberto Fujimori and other Government leaders. In response to questions by reporters, he said that "Peru not only can but has to move out of the economic and social crisis presently affecting the country".

Mr. Perez de Cuellar continued his meetings with Peruvian officials today.

* * *

Ways must be found immediately to deal with the social and economic distress that can result from cuts in military spending, said Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in a message to a conference that opened in Moscow on Monday. The conference is dealing with the question of economic adjustments in an era of arms reduction. Noting that numerous military-related industries would be adversely affected by the improvement of the international security situation, the Secretary-General said the so-called "peace dividend" must be used to redress those dislocations.

A message from Soviet State President Mikhail Gorbachev stressed the significance of conversion, with all its political, economic, environmental and psychological dimensions. It rendered the disarmament process irreversible, he said, paving the way for the demilitarization of politics.

Speakers at the meeting stressed long-term benefits and the need for international co-operation to alleviate adjustment problems.

* * *

It was announced today that the weapons of the Contras that were handed over to the United Nations would be used to make artificial limbs.

In Honduras today, the Chief Military Observer of the United Nations Observer Force which oversaw the demobilization of the Nicaraguan resistance handed over the key to the container which held ten tons of destroyed weapons. Through a project called "Arms for Arms" the weapons will be recycled and turned into artificial limbs by the World Rehabilitation Fund to benefit the children who were victimized by the Nicaraguan war.

* *** *

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/705
16 August 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Libya requests meeting of Security Council in Geneva "to avert a catastrophe in the Arab region."

+ Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar reports on response made so far by States in carrying out Security Council decision to impose sanctions against Iraq

+ Hope has been expressed at a United Nations Seminar that the United States would return to co-operation within the United Nations on law of the sea matters.

* * *

In a letter to the Secretary-General, Libyan Leader Muammar Qaddafi said an act of open aggression was being carried out by a blockade of ships in the Arab Gulf and that the Security Council should meet urgently at Geneva "to avert a catastrophe in the Arab region". He said it was up to the Council to determine which forces would be permitted in the Gulf and to spell out their mandate

Stating that only the United Nations had the authority to decide on measures regarding a blockade, the Libyan leader said there was absolutely no justification for invoking the self-defence provisions of the UN Charter in the current situation.

* * *

In a report to the Security Council, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar listed 32 replies received so far in response to his request for action taken to carry out Security Council resolution 660 imposing wide-ranging sanctions against Iraq. The replies cited such measures as decrees prohibiting exports and imports and transfer of economic resources.

(more)

In a note addressed to the Foreign Ministers of all States on 8 August, the Secretary-General requested replies by 24 August.

* * *

Hopes for a return by the United States to co-operation within the United Nations on law of the sea matters were expressed yesterday at a seminar on environmental aspects of sea-bed mining.

Jan Magne Markussen, of the Fridtjof Nansen Institute at Lysaker, Norway, said forces were now at work to involve the United States in law of the sea co-operation again. He saw it as a positive sign that a high ranking American civil servant was taking part in the seminar in his personal capacity and said the United States contribution to research of the ocean environment could be a factor in bringing the United States back to the United Nation in that context.

The United States voted against the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982, expressing dissatisfaction with its provisions regarding deep sea-bed mining.

Among the guest experts taking part in the current seminar in their personal capacity is Benjamin Haynes of the United States Bureau of Mines.

Mr. Markussen said he hoped the United States would take seriously the initiative launched last September by the Chairman of the "Group of 77" developing countries who had sought to open a dialogue with the United States on participating in the Convention. He said it would be in the interests of the United States, the developing countries and the rest of the world to have one set of rules governing future sea-bed exploration.

* *** *

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/706
17 August 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

@ Security Council consults on situation of foreign nationals in Iraq and Kuwait. Secretary-General receives requests for possible humanitarian intervention.

@ Monitoring Committee meets to follow up Security Council sanctions resolution against Iraq.

@ Kuwait asks Security Council to close all loopholes in application of sanctions.

@ United States informs Council it has joined Kuwait in actions to intercept vessels seeking to violate the mandatory sanctions.

@ Soviet Union expresses support for idea of establishing UN register of arms sales and transfers.

@ Secretary-General meets with church groups in Peru to discuss the country's economic and social crisis.

* * *

The Security Council held private consultations today to consider the situation of foreign nationals in Iraq and Kuwait.

Also today, in reply to questions by correspondents, a spokeswoman for Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he had been contacted yesterday by Italy on behalf of the 12 members of the European Community and others to see how he could help in the situation on a humanitarian basis. Requests had also been received from other countries in Asia, Latin America and North America. The Secretary-General and his aides were studying the matter very carefully.

* * *

(more)

The monitoring committee set up by the Security Council to oversee the sanctions imposed against Iraq, in resolution 661, met in closed session this morning.

Meanwhile, Kuwait asked the Council to close all loopholes that were or might be used by Iraq in attempts to circumvent the embargo measures. The Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations, Mohammed A. Abulhasan, said in a letter to the Council that while he sympathized with countries that might encounter economic difficulties, the overriding interest of restoring stability to the Gulf region would require sacrifices.

A letter from Alexander F. Watson of the United States informed the Council that the United States had joined the Government of Kuwait, at Kuwait's request, in taking actions to intercept vessels seeking to engage in trade with Iraq or Kuwait in violation of the mandatory sanctions. The letter said those actions were being taken in exercise of the right of individual and collective self-defence recognized in the United Nations Charter. It said United States military forces would use force only if necessary and only in a manner proportionate to preventing vessels from violating the sanctions.

* * *

In a letter relating to the General Assembly's forthcoming debate on disarmament, Foreign Minister Edouard Shevardnadze of the Soviet Union has expressed support for the idea of establishing a United Nations register of arms sales and transfers.

Mr. Shevardnadze said the reporting of weapons transactions along with information on military expenditures would make it possible to establish an objective picture of the military potential of both weapon-producing and weapon-importing States. He also said the United Nations could play a role in combating illegal trade in arms, which was often closely linked with terrorism and drug trafficking.

The Soviet Foreign Minister concluded that the global monitoring of arms transfers would introduce into the international situation an additional element of stability and thereby enhance prospects for peace.

* * *

The Secretary-General met in Peru this morning with representatives of CARITAS, a church non-governmental organization dealing with social and economic welfare, and also with representatives of the Peruvian Episcopal Conference. Discussions centred on the current economic and social crisis in Peru and the way in which the United Nations system might help.

* *** *

CORRECTION: In the last paragraph on page 1 of the Thursday Highlights, the Security Council resolution referred to should be 661.

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/707
20 August 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General's envoys are en route to Baghdad to look into situation of foreign nationals and United Nations international staff in Iraq and Kuwait.

+ At Saturday night meeting, Security Council votes unanimously to demand that Iraq facilitate immediate departure of foreign nationals from Iraq and Kuwait.

+ Secretary-General sees Gulf situation as explosive but hopes for success of efforts to keep it under control.

+ Review Conference of Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons opens in Geneva.

+ Convention on Rights of Child to take effect 2 September

* * *

Two high-ranking envoys of Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar are on their way to Baghdad to look into the situation of foreign nationals and United Nations international staff in Iraq and Kuwait.

The Secretary-General's Chef de Cabinet, Virendra Dayal, and Kofi Annan, Assistant Secretary-General in charge of personnel, are expected to arrive in Baghdad tomorrow.

A United Nations official said there were 220 international staff, including their dependants in Baghdad, and 90 with dependents in Kuwait.

* * *

In a unanimous action taken at a late Saturday night meeting, the Security Council demanded that Iraq "permit and facilitate" the immediate departure of all third country nationals from Iraq and Kuwait, and that consular officials be granted immediate access to those persons..

(more)

It further demanded that Iraq take no action to jeopardize their safety, security or health.

Reaffirming that Iraq's annexation of Kuwait was null and void, the Council demanded that Iraq rescind its closure of diplomatic and consular missions in Kuwait and the withdrawal of immunity from their personnel.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was requested to submit a follow-up report "at the earliest possible time".

* * *

As he arrived in Santiago on Sunday for a two-day official visit to Chile, the Secretary-General said in reply to reporters' questions that the situation in the Gulf remained explosive, but that efforts were being made to keep it under control.

He said the situation was one of the most difficult he had faced in his nearly nine years as Secretary-General, but he had never lost faith that prudence would prevail and that it would be understood by all that only through dialogue and negotiations could problems be solved.

The Secretary-General's schedule in Santiago included meetings with President Patricio Aylwin Azocar of Chile and other Government officials, as well as with representatives of organizations concerned with human rights.

* * *

A Conference to review the operation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) opened in Geneva today, 20 years after its entry into force.

It will be the fourth review Conference and the last before the Treaty comes up for extension in 1995.

In accepting the Treaty, States possessing nuclear weapons have bound themselves to refrain from transferring such weapons to others and from assisting any non-nuclear-weapon States to manufacture nuclear weapons. And non-nuclear-weapon States have undertaken not to receive or manufacture such weapons. The parties to the Treaty have at the same time undertaken to pursue good faith negotiations on measures to halt the nuclear arms race and achieve nuclear disarmament, as well as general disarmament under effective international control.

As of 1 June, the Treaty had 141 Parties, including three of the nuclear Powers -- the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States. The two other nuclear Powers -- China and France -- are not parties.

* * *

(more)

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is to enter into force on 2 September, having received the necessary ratifications.

The Convention was drafted over a 10-year period by a working group of the Commission on Human Rights and adopted by the General Assembly last November. It spells out a wide range of basic human rights of the child and is designed to protect children from dangers to which they are particularly vulnerable, such as separation from parents, sexual exploitation, sale and trafficking.

A 10-member monitoring committee will oversee its implementation.

To date, 22 States have ratified or acceded to the Convention and 76 States have signed it

* * *

The two-fold obstacles to participation in society by disabled women -- being a woman and disabled -- are the focus of a seminar that opened in Vienna today.

The 17 women experts at the seminar -- almost all of whom are disabled -- will try to chart practical meaures to speed the full integration of disabled women into political, social and economic development.

* *** *

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/708
21 August 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Gulf crisis is again subject of Security Council consultations in early hours of this morning, and Secretary-General's envoys arrive in Baghdad to seek solution to situation of foreign nationals and United Nations staff in Iraq and Kuwait.

+ Differing complaints are received by Secretary-General in letters from Kuwait, Iraq and Jordan.

+ Presidents Bush and Gorbachev express their countries' commitment to Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in messages to Review Conference in Geneva.

+ United Nations Conference in Moscow on economic adjustments in era of arms reduction concludes work.

+ Special Committee on decolonization concludes session with approval of draft on activities detrimental to Territories.

+ Canada informs Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of negotiations regarding Mohawk indians.

* * *

The Gulf crisis was again the subject of Security Council consultations in the early hours of this morning.

Two high-ranking envoys of Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived in Baghdad today to look into the situation of foreign nationals and United Nations international staff in Iraq and Kuwait. They are the Secretary-General's Chef de Cabinet, Virendra Dayal, and Kofi Annan, Assistant Secretary-General in charge of personnel. They met with the Foreign Minister of Jordan in Amman last night and were scheduled to meet with the Foreign Minister of Iraq in Baghdad tomorrow.

Meanwhile, 75 United Nations staff and their dependents arrived in Amman from Baghdad.

(more)

A United Nations spokeswoman said yesterday there were 220 international staff including their dependents in Baghdad and 90 with dependents in Kuwait.

* * *

Differing complaints from Kuwait, Iraq and Jordan were contained in letters addressed to the Secretary-General.

The representative of Kuwait, Mohammad Saad Al Sallal, said in his letter that Iraqi occupation forces had been destroying his country's infrastructure by plundering, looting and confiscating. In the past few days, he said, they had mined all vital State installations, including desalination systems, power stations, oil refineries and sea ports. Kuwait would hold Iraq accountable for all those acts, which contravened the Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in wartime.

Two letters from the representative of Iraq, Abdul Amir Al-Anbari complained that a United States vessel had harassed an Iraqi tanker by firing shots on 17 August, that British and United States military aircraft had harassed another tanker on 18 August, and that a United States warship continued to track the tanker on Sunday. The international community should adopt measures "to prevent these acts of aggression", said Mr. Al-Anbari.

The representative of Jordan, Abdullah Salah, said in his letter that a United States warship had intercepted a Sudanese cargo vessel on 18 August as it was sailing to the port of Aqaba and forced it to alter its course even though the captain had made known that it was transporting Sudanese nationals in Jordan back to their country.

As a result, he said, the port of Aqaba was now considered to be a war risk, with companies transporting goods to Jordan refusing to send their ships. And Aqaba was Jordan's only maritime outlet, accounting for 80 per cent of its imports of foodstuffs from abroad. Moreover, he continued, the process of transporting refugees who had arrived in Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait on their way back to their countries of origin had been held up.

The representative of Jordan asked the Secretary-General to use his good offices to prevent the recurrence of any such incident. Security Council resolution 661 on sanctions against Iraq did not give any State the right to take unilateral action, he said.

* * *

The United Nations Conference reviewing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty heard messages today from Presidents George Bush of the United States and Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union. Both leaders expressed their countries' commitment to the Treaty.

President Bush said the Treaty had stood as the principal barrier to the spread of nuclear weapons and remained a hallmark in the quest for peace and peaceful nuclear co-operation among nations. He urged all States that had not

adhered to the Treaty to do so, and urged parties to the Treaty to fulfil their obligations.

President Gorbachev said the Soviet Union remained in favour of assurances to non-nuclear countries against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. He referred specifically to the International Atomic Energy Agency's verification of State obligations on preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, promoting the peaceful and safe use of nuclear energy.

* * *

The first United Nations Conference ever to deal with the issue of economic adjustments in an era of arms reduction has concluded a five-day discussion on various aspects of the conversion of defence industries to civilian production, the demobilization of armed forces and the destruction of weapons.

The Conference, held in Moscow, brought together some 130 expert participants and 40 observers from the governmental, industrial, academic and labour sectors of 35 countries, as well as United Nations officials.

Yasushi Akashi, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, said in a closing statement that the gathering had not sought to reach full agreement on specific conclusions, but rather to provoke new ideas and clarify differing points of view.

* * *

The Special Committee on decolonization has concluded its current session with the approval of a recommendation that the General Assembly call on Governments to end activities by their nationals or corporations that were detrimental to the interests of colonial Territories under their administration.

Approved by a vote of 21 in favour to none against, with 3 abstentions (Cote d'Ivoire, Czechoslovakia and Norway), the draft resolution also envisaged a United Nations campaign to inform public opinion of the pillaging of Territories' resources by foreign economic interests.

A draft decision on military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration included a condemnation of certain countries' continuing military and nuclear collaboration with South Africa. The vote was 22 in favour to none against, with 2 abstentions (Czechoslovakia and Norway.)

Also approved was a draft urging specialized agencies to increase support for opponents of apartheid. A provision condemning extensive links between South Africa and certain countries as well as growing military and nuclear co-operation between South Africa and Israel was approved by a vote of 18 in favour to 3 against (Cote d'Ivoire, Czechoslovakia and Norway), with 3 abstentions (Bulgaria, Chile and Sierra Leone).

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The Committee postponed action on the questions of Gibraltar and Western Sahara.

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In Geneva, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities was informed that negotiations involving the government of Quebec and Mohawk representatives, and the Government of Canada, with observers from the Federation Internationale des Droits de l'Homme, had begun on 16 August. A statement received from the Canadian Government said all parties had agreed that there would be no comment on the negotiations while they were under way.

The representative of Canada said his Government would keep the Chairman of the Sub-Commission, the Chairman of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the Secretary-General informed about the Government's efforts to ensure a negotiated resolution of the matter in a manner respectful of the human rights of all persons concerned.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/709
22 August 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Permanent members of Security Council confer privately on possible follow-up to Council's resolution imposing sanctions against Iraq.

+ Secretary-General's envoys hold "very substantial and detailed" discussion with Foreign Minister of Iraq on situation of foreigners and United Nations staff in Iraq and Kuwait.

+ Sudan asks Security Council for interpretation of its sanctions resolution following action by United States naval vessels to turn back Sudanese vessel en route to Aqaba, Jordan.

+ Latin American and Caribbean Group asks forthcoming General Assembly to respond to Haiti's call for help in observing November elections.

+ Fourth round of talks on El Salvador concludes in San Jose, Costa Rica, under mediation of Secretary-General's Representative.

+ Expert group begins hearings in London on human rights situation in South Africa.

+ United Nations World Population Chart estimates 1990 population at 5.3 billion and projects increase to 6.3 billion by year 2000.

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The five permanent members of the Security Council --the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China and the Soviet Union -- conferred privately last night and again this morning on possible action to follow up the Council decision to impose sanctions against Iraq.

That followed consultations held by the Council as a whole late Monday night.

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In Baghdad, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's two envoys met for two hours and 45 minutes this morning with Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz of Iraq in an effort to resolve the situation of foreign nationals and United Nations staff in Iraq and Kuwait. A United Nations spokeswoman said the discussion was "very substantial and detailed". The talks being held by the two envoys --the Secretary-General's Chef de Cabinet, Virendra Dayal, and the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of personnel, Kofi Annan, are to be continued tomorrow.

* * *

In a letter to the Security Council, the representative of the Sudan, Salah Ali, has requested an explicit interpretation of its sanctions resolution regarding Iraq, and whether that resolution delegates power to any country to impose a blockade on ships of other countries traveling to countries not involved in the Gulf conflict.

The letter complained specifically about action taken by United States naval forces on 18 August to turn back a Sudanese vessel en route to the Jordanian port of Aqaba. Describing the action as unjustified and contrary to the United Nations Charter, the representative of the Sudan also asked the Council to make known "whether the blockade on Iraq also applies to Jordan".

* * *

The Latin American and Caribbean Group of States has asked the forthcoming session of the General Assembly to respond to Haiti's request for United Nations help in observing its November elections.

The request of the Group was made in a letter from its Chairman, Ambassador E. Besley Maycock of Barbados. The letter was accompanied by a draft resolution by which the Assembly would ask the Secretary-General, in co-operation with regional organizations and Member States, to support the Haitian Government in meeting its request for observers to oversee voter registration and the elections, high-level advisers to aid the co-ordinating committee for security of the elections, as well as increased international technical, economic and financial co-operation in support of Haiti's development efforts.

* * *

The fourth round of talks on El Salvador concluded today in San Jose, Costa Rica, under the mediation of the Secretary-General's Representative, Alvaro de Soto.

Mr. de Soto said the major issue in the talks between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberation Nacional (FMLN) was that of the armed forces. He said that while agreement had not yet been reached, certain elements had emerged from the talks which could serve to

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connect substantive agreements. Efforts on that and other areas would continue between now and the next round of direct talks to be held from 13 to 18 September.

Mr. de Soto said the negotiating committees had examined with him the question of initiating verification of the partial agreement on human rights, signed on 26 July. And he suggested certain steps the Secretary-General might take in consultation with the Security Council to activate preparation of the task entrusted to the United Nations.

The Representative said it did not seem realistic to think that the initial goal of reaching political agreements towards the cessation of armed confrontation by mid-September could be met. But the parties had reaffirmed their determination to press forward toward that objective.

* * *

The Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts of the United Nations on the situation of human rights in South Africa has opened hearings in London which will be concluded on 24 August. The Group will then conduct hearings in the United Republic of Tanzania from 27 to 31 August and in Zambia from 3 to 5 September. The information gathered will be reported to the Commission on Human Rights.

* * *

The United Nations World Population Chart estimates that the total world population has reached 5.3 billion people in 1990 and projects that the numbers will reach 6.3 billion by the year 2000, and 8.5 billion (an increase of 60 per cent) by the year 2025.

According to the document, just under a quarter of the world population resided in the more developed countries this year. By the year 2000, the proportion is expected to decrease to one fifth and by 2025 to one sixth. The 25 countries with the largest populations in 1990 include 12 in Asia, six in Europe, three in the Americas, three in Africa, and the Soviet Union.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/710
23 August 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council holds consultations to consider communications from Jordan and Bulgaria concerning their economic hardships arising from the application of sanctions imposed by Council against Iraq.

+ Secretary-General's envoys meet with foreign nationals in Iraq who have been relocated outside Baghdad.

+ United Nations drug convention to enter into force.

+ United States contributes $9.9 million to UN Development Programme.

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The Security Council held consultations last night following the receipt of letters from Bulgaria and Jordan in another development related to the Gulf crisis and the sanctions imposed by the Council against Iraq.

The two countries invoked Article 50 of the Charter, which allows for resort to the Council when a State faces special economic problems in carrying out sanctions imposed by the Council against another State.

* * *

In Baghdad today, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's envoys continued their discussions with Iraqi officials on the situation of third country nationals in Iraq and Kuwait.

The two envoys -- the Secretary-General's Chef de Cabinet, Virendra Dayal, and the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of personnel matters, Kofi Annan -- were able to clarify a number of aspects of the situation in the matter of numbers, Iraq's policies, and departures.

At the request of Mr. Dayal, Iraq agreed to allow the envoys to visit some of the foreign nationals who had been relocated outside Baghdad.

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They traveled about one hour away from Baghdad, where they were able to meet privately with nine such persons -- men between the ages of 17 and 65 -- to discuss their situation.

* * *

The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is to come into effect on 11 November. That was made possible by the twentieth ratification of the Convention, which has been deposited by Spain.

The Convention was adopted by consensus by 106 States at a plenipotentiary conference held in Vienna in 1988. One of its innovations concerns the tracing, freezing and confiscation of property or proceeds derived from drug trafficking. To that effect, courts are empowered to make available or to seize bank, financial or commercial records. Bank secrecy cannot be invoked in such cases.

In addition to the criminalization of drug-trafficking offences, the new Convention bars all havens to drug traffickers, particularly by the provision for the extradition of major drug traffickers and provisions for mutual legal assistance between States on drug-related investigations and the transfer of proceedings for criminal prosecution. Another innovation is the commitment of parties to the Convention to eliminate illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

* * *

James Wilkinson of the United States today presented a check for $9.9 million to William Draper III, Administrator for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The voluntary contribution was made available to UNDP for vocational training and job placement of Bulgarian ethnic Turks.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/711
24 August 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ UN Congress on Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders opens in Havana on Monday.

+ Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities ends discussion of human rights violations.

+ Secretary-General concludes visit to Colombia.

+ Canada proposes creation of an Environmental Committee to set criteria for mining operations.

+ United Nations envoys meet with Government officials in Iraq.

* * *

"International co-operation in crime prevention and criminal justice for the twenty-first century", is the theme of the eighth United Nations Congress on Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders opening in Havana, Cuba on Monday, August 27.

A major challenge facing the two-week Congress will be to launch an effective international effort against the growing threat of crime. Figures show that the number of reported crimes has been increasing on a world-wide average of 5 percent each year, faster than the population growth and that of most national economies. Global crime surveys undertaken by the United Nations estimate that the number of recorded crimes could increase from about 350 million in 1975 to half a billion in 1990.

In some countries, juvenile offences currently account for 60 to 70 per cent of all crimes. While some nations have reported no significant increase in juvenile lawlessness, many, including the most developed and least developed nations have done so. Although habitual drug use and criminal offences usually begin at the age of 13 or 14, an especially disturbing trend is the growing number of even younger delinquents -- under 10 years of age -- in metropolitan areas where drug trafficking, unemployment and disintegration of family structures are endemic.

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Among the major agenda items of the Congress are: crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development; realities and perspectives of international co-operation; criminal justice policies in relation to problems of imprisonment, other penal sanctions and alternative measures; effective national and international action against organized crime and terrorist criminal activities; prevention of delinquency, juvenile justice and the protection of the young; policy approaches and directions and United Nations norms and guidelines in crime prevention and criminal justice implementation and priorities for further standard setting.

* * *

In Geneva, the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities concluded discussion on the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid in all countries.

During Thursday's session, Mohammed Al-Douri of Iraq said that despite the Western blockade of his country, measures were taken to improve the human rights situation. He said people had been evicted from southern Iraq for the purpose of resettling them in better areas.

Abdul Kamal of Bahrain said the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq was in opposition to the current trend of international pacification and constituted a threat to world peace. He said Bahrain had called for the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait, adding that his country had condemned the invasion, particularly since it came from a brother Arab country.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is due back in New York over the weekend after a two-day visit to Colombia.

Before concluding his visit today, the Secretary-General met for over an hour with staff of the United Nations system in Colombia and United Nations Development Programme offices in Bogota. Mr. Perez de Cuellar also held his first official meeting with Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo.

During his meeting yesterday with the Colombian Foreign Minister, the Secretary General discussed matters of mutual interest including the situation in the Persian Gulf, the role of Colombia in the United Nations and the Security Council, the drug problem and issues of Latin American regional economic integration.

* * *

Canada has proposed the creation of an environmental committee within the future International Sea-bed Authority.

The Canadian proposal came during the reading of draft rules aimed at protecting the ocean environment from possible harmful effects of deep-sea

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mining activities. It is aimed at avoiding possible conflicts of interest arising from the Authority's role in protecting the environment while seeking to profit from mining the deep sea-bed.

According to the proposal, the environmental committee could be consulted in setting specific environmental criteria for mining operations and in emergencies threatening ocean ecosystems. It would meet only as required, and did not have any financial or permanent staffing implications. It could draw on international expertise, with a membership of individuals acting in their personal capacities to ensure that environmental assessments would be based on independent expert views and advice. The Committee would make recommendations to the Legal and Technical Commission, which in turn would make recommendations to the Council.

* * *

A spokeswoman for the Secretary-General today said that the two United Nations envoys currently in Iraq today continued discussions with Iraqi Government officials regarding various aspects of the situation relative to third-State nationals.

The spokeswoman said the envoys also met with a large delegation of Western countries.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/712
27 August 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General to meet with Iraqi Foreign Minister on Thursday.

+ Security Council calls for measures to ensure strict implementation of sanctions against Iraq.

+ Disarmament Conference concludes six-month long session.

+ Headquarters Agreement for Sea-Law Tribunal.

+ Human Rights Violations Reviewed by Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar will meet the Foreign Minister of Iraq, Tariq Aziz, on Thursday 30 August, in Amman, Jordan. According to a statement issued in Bogota on Saturday 25 August, by a spokesman for the Secretary-General, "he felt that the moment had arrived to start diplomatic efforts aimed at solving in all its aspects the critical situation in the Gulf area".

* * *

The Security Council on Saturday called on Member States deploying maritime forces in the Persian Gulf area to use "measures commensurate to the specific circumstances" to halt all maritime shipping in order to verify cargoes and destinations and ensure the strict implementation of mandatory economic sanctions imposed against Iraq earlier this month.

The resolution adopted by a vote of 13 in favour to none against with 2 abstentions (Cuba and Yemen), also invited States to co-operate with maximum use of political and diplomatic measures to ensure compliance with the sanctions.

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Abdalla Saleh Al-Ashtal of Yemen said the resolution lacked a clear definition of the role of the Security Council, and to resort to measures requiring the use of force could lead to war in the area.

Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada of Cuba said the resolution raised many questions and was unacceptable. He said the Council was being called on to act in a way that was not in accordance with the Charter.

Pierre-Louis Blanc of France said it was clear that there were attempts to violate the embargo and thus reduce the scope of the sanctions imposed by the Council. He said the resolution should not be seen as a carte blanche for the indiscriminate use of force. Rather, it was concerned with obtaining respect for the embargo imposed by the Council.

Thomas Pickering of the United States described the resolution as an historic and significant decision. He said the resolution had no intention of encouraging a military escalation and applied strictly to efforts to ensure that the trade sanctions were not violated. Over the past three weeks he added, diplomatic approaches undertaken by the Council had fallen on deaf ears in Baghdad.

Valentin Lozinskiy of the Soviet Union called on Iraq to make a "serious change" in its current policies. Moscow would take every step possible to ensure the implementation of Security Council resolutions. He drew special attention to the need for "a high unity of action" by Council members, which he said would further strengthen the Organization and enhance the prestige of the Security Council.

Sir Crispin Tickell of the United Kingdom said the reaction of the Council showed a creative approach of the international community to deal with an unprecedented crisis. He hoped the use of force would not be necessary and it was important that ships in the area co-operated in the inspection of their cargoes.

Li Daoyu of China supported the Arab countries in their search for a political solution and expressed respect for their demand for strengthened capabilities to defend themselves. He called for the full utilization of the mechanisms of the United Nations and the good offices of the Secretary-General in order to prevent a further worsening of the situation.

* * *

The United Nations Conference on Disarmament has concluded the work of its six-month long session after adopting its annual report to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly. Prior to that, the Conference adopted the reports of its Ad Hoc Committees on Chemical Weapons, on a Nuclear Test Ban, and on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space.

I.S. Chadha of India, speaking on behalf of the Group of 21 on the question of a comprehensive nuclear test ban, said the mandate of the Ad Hoc

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Committee represented a compromise which was made possible due to the spirit of accommodation shown by all groups. He said the Group of 21 had agreed to the mandate despite its strong feelings in favour of a stronger negotiating mandate in the hope that the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee would mark the beginning of efforts towards the conclusion of a comprehensive test ban treaty.

In a closing statement, the Conference President for the month of August, Gheorghe Chirila of Romania, noted that 1990 was marked by unprecedented and important developments in international life, as well as in the field of disarmament.

* * *

The Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on Friday approved many of the provisions of the draft headquarters agreement between the Authority and the Government of Jamaica.

The action was taken after the Chairman, Jose Luis Jesus, of Cape Verde, had reported on the results of consultations. He stated that it had been agreed to include in his final report specific language to reflect understandings arrived at with respect to two articles dealing with law and order in the headquarters of the Authority and security.

The Preparatory Commission also heard a statement by Frank Njenga, Secretary-General of the Asian African Legal Consultative Committee, which has observer status with the Commission. He said there was a need to seek a universally acceptable regime in respect of the Law of the Sea and on other issues, such as due process of law. Those who had advocated and lobbied for a premature amendment of the Convention had ignored the feelings of the peoples of the developing countries.

* * *

In Geneva, the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities met Friday and heard statements from a number of non-governmental organizations on the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

It also heard an introduction by Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, Jan Martenson, concerning the administration of justice and the human rights of detainees, and the independence of the judiciary. On the items relating to human rights of detainees and the impartiality of the judiciary, Mr. Martenson highlighted the standard-setting role of the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission in those areas.

He said among the items to be considered by the Sub-Commission under the question of the administration of justice, was the protection of staff members of the United Nations system. The Sub-Commission had expressed deep concern that violations of the human rights of the United Nations system staff members

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and threats against their security and independence had increased. Efforts by the Secretary-General to ensure respect for the privileges and immunities of staff members were continuing, but no progress could be reported on the cases of abduction, imprisonment and other violations of the rights of staff members and their families.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/713
28 August 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General to discuss all aspects of Gulf situation with Foreign Minister of Iraq, in Jordan.

+ President Castro of Cuba stresses need for international co-operation as United Nations Anti-Crime Congress opens in Cuba.

+ Committee against Apartheid in Sports opens second session with a call for continued boycott of South Africa's apartheid sports.

+ Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination ends thirty-eighth session in Geneva.

* * *

At a press conference held yesterday at Headquarters, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar expressed extreme concern about the situation in the Gulf, stating he "thought it was very important to take an initiative of his own".

The Secretary-General said it was his intention "to embark on an extensive and comprehensive discussion with the Foreign Minister of Iraq, Tariq Aziz, on all aspects of the problem". As that was his duty he would try to obtain full implementation of Security Council resolutions 660 and 664 and would of course keep in mind all five resolutions adopted by the Council on the question. He said he was leaving at noon on Wednesday, 29 August, and would be in Jordan the following day at around 5 p.m. local time.

In response to a question as to what was there to discuss with the Iraqis before an unconditional withdrawal, the Secretary-General said that was exactly one of the things that would be discussed with the Iraqis. Asked if he knew of anything that gave him hope that he personally would be able to succeed, he said the Security Council was not a negotiator, but a body that adopts resolutions that are laws for the international community. The Secretary-General had to be the negotiator. "That is why I am going to the area to explore ways and means to implement the resolutions of the Security Council." He stressed that he was working on his own with no mandate from

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anybody, but with the spirit of the Charter and the Council resolutions. In response to a further question the Secretary-General said he would meet, in Jordan, with his two emissaries, his Chef de Cabinet, Mr. Dayal, and his senior advisor on the Middle East, Mr. Aimé.

Asked why he did not think it was necessary to go to Baghdad for a face-to-face meeting with Saddam Hussein, the Secretary-General said that at this stage it was important to see Tariq Aziz, someone with whom he has had contact for over six years. He said he hoped that Mr. Aziz would bring "as much good faith to the discussions", as the Secretary-General planned to do.

* * *

The Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which opened yesterday in Havana, was addressed by the President of Cuba, Fidel Castro Ruz, who stressed the need for international co-operation to combat crime. Success in the fight against crime, he said, depended on success in the fight against poverty and exploitation.

The Congress, which meets until 7 September, was opened by its Secretary-General, Margaret J. Anstee, who directs the United Nations Office at Geneva. Ms. Anstee said the Congress should produce specific recommendations in response to specific problems rather than, in seeking to answer all the great questions, answer none that were within its competence.

In a message read out on his behalf by the UN Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said that from a local problem of limited scope, crime had become a global menace, which transcended national frontiers as organized crime and other forms of serious criminality continued to increase. Crime syndicates took advantage of differences in legislation and enforcement capability to shift their operations to areas of laxer control. Profiting from poverty, ignorance and greed, they polluted the human environment in the same way as the natural environment had been polluted by ecological crime.

The United Nations provided the best framework for a truly multilateral effort against crime, the Secretary-General's message went on. Efforts must be made to improve the quality of justice. The Congress had a unique opportunity to examine such problems as terrorism, organized crime and corruption, and to devise elements of a global strategy. The challenges were serious and if they were not met, the cost would be high.

* * *

The Commission against Apartheid on Sports opened its second session yesterday afternoon with a call by its Chairman, James Victor Gbeho (Ghana), for the international community to continue to apply sanctions, including those involving sports, until apartheid had been eradicated.

In his opening statement, Mr. Gbeho said that in his capacity as Commission Chairman, he had held consultations earlier this year on South

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Africa and the Olympic Games. The unanimous conclusion had been that while the recent changes in South Africa were welcome, they were not irreversible and should not result in a change of position by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). He said sanctions must remain in place until apartheid had been replaced by a non-racial, democratic society in South Africa.

* * *

In Geneva, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination concluded its thirty-eighth session. During the session (6 July-24 August), the 18-member Committee examined more than 40 reports from various States parties, and considered communications from individuals and Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Also, in the context of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination which is due to end in 1993, the Committee agreed to request the Secretary-General to arrange a one-day joint meeting in August 1991, between the Committee and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, with the purpose of exchanging views on the prevention of racial discrimination.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/714
29 August 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General leaves for talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister in Jordan.

+ Secretary-General in a message to Eighth United Nations Crime Congress says crime has become a global menace.

+ European NGO Symposium on Question of Palestine calls for increased international mobilization in seeking a lasting solution.

+ Commission against Apartheid in Sports hears calls for continued boycott against South Africa.

+ The five permanent members of the Security Council announce agreement on a framework for comprehensive settlement of the Cambodian problem.

+ UNICEF appeals for assistance to meet urgent needs of people leaving Iraq and Kuwait.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar left New York at noon today for Amman, Jordan, by way of Paris. Tomorrow he will meet with the Foreign Minister of France, Roland Dumas, before proceeding to Amman where he will hold talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

* * *

Crime has become a global menace, transcending national frontiers as organized crime and other forms of serious criminality continued to increase. That is what Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar told the opening session of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders being held in Havana, Cuba.

In a message read to the Congress by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, the Secretary-General noted that

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crime syndicates took advantage of differences in legislation and enforcement capability to shift their operations to places of laxer control. He said they profited from poverty, ignorance and greed and polluted the human environment as the natural environment had been polluted by ecological crime.

The Secretary-General also said crime and the response to it exacted a high price in both human and material terms by the diversion of limited resources needed to meet development goals. Crime, he continued, undermined stability, social peace and progress. Mr. Perez de Cuellar called for devising new and more effective means of international co-operation and for a reduction in the lag between the perpetrators of crime and the mechanisms of control. He said that by pooling our knowledge and developing practical countermeasures, the international community could become more successful in preventing crime and reducing victimization.

A more humane as well as efficient criminal justice system, he stated, could be an instrument of equity, constructive social change and social justice, protecting basic values and peoples' rights. He said the Congress had a unique opportunity to examine the problems encountered in key areas such as terrorism, organized crime and corruption. The United Nations, as a forum for discussion, a catalyst and a facilitator, could help achieve the common objective of preventing crime and mitigating its impact on society. But, he concluded, it could only do so with the full material and political support of its Member States.

* * *

The Fourth United Nations European NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine opened with a call for increased mobilization of the international community in seeking a speedy, just and lasting solution to the problem. The Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Absa Diallo (Senegal), said the question of Palestine represented one of the gravest injustices against a people subjected to illegal occupation and persecutions.

In an opening statement, the Chairman said she was aware of the activities of, and appreciated the role played by the European countries, in particular their non-governmental organizations in the efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East. She said because of the considerable influence the non-governmental organization's (NGOs) exerted on official opinion and policies in their respective countries, the Committee considered the European Symposium as one of the most important events in its programme of work. Those activities she said, included the campaign to reopen schools and universities, the organization and participation in peace demonstrations and the provision of direct assistance to Palestinians living under occupation.

She said the Security Council had been unable to reach agreement on easing the tension, offering true protection to the Palestinians and hastening the convening of the international peace conference on the Middle East. It

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was therefore urgent, she concluded, that non-governmental organizations, Governments, intergovernmental organizations and the international community, increased their efforts towards those objectives.

The two-day Symposium is being followed by a three-day International Meeting of NGO's on the Question of Palestine which began today and ends on Friday, 31 August.

* * *

There is a need to continue the sports boycott against South Africa until apartheid has been irrevocably dismantled: this was the view stressed by delegates as the Commission against Apartheid in Sports continued its second session at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Speakers also suggested that the Commission work with governing bodies of international sporting organizations regarding the ban on South African participation in international events, so that those bodies could understand that apartheid in sports was harmful to all sportsmen and women.

* * *

A spokesman for the Secretary-General today said Mr. Perez de Cuellar was gratified that the five permanent members of the Security Council (United Kingdom, China, France, the United States and the Soviet Union) had reached agreement on a framework for a comprehensive settlement of the Cambodian problem. The spokesman said the Secretary-General had maintained close contact with the five permanent members since the beginning of their talks in January this year.

The Secretary-General "very much hopes that the Cambodian parties will accept this framework so that we can move forward towards restoration of peace in Cambodia. Meanwhile, he has asked his task force to proceed with more detailed planning for an eventual operation in Cambodia", the spokesman said.

The agreement includes the main elements of a wide-ranging political settlement for Cambodia that could end years of civil strife by transferring temporary control of the country to the United Nations.

The agreement, concluded after eight months of negotiations, would have to be accepted by the four competing military and political factions in Cambodia to take effect. Although details of the agreement have been announced, the full document will not be released until after the Cambodians and other interested parties have had a chance to study it.

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The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) today issued an appeal for $585,000 to meet the urgent needs of more than 100,000 vulnerable people, many of them women and children, who are evacuees in transit through Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq.

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The appeal was issued in response to a request by the Government of Jordan and is part of a growing United Nations relief effort to help cope with the urgent needs of between 120,000 and 150,000 evacuees living in temporary encampments throughout the country. Since the Gulf crisis began on 2 August, more than 250,000 foreign nationals from Kuwait and Iraq have streamed into Jordan.

Funding for UNICEF appeal would go towards the provision of essential drugs and medical supplies, shelter, bedding, water and sanitation equipment and milk. In addition, UNICEF assistance would be targeted to help establish a camp where over 4,000 women and children would be sheltered.

Meanwhile, UNICEF has already released $100,000 from the Emergency Reserve Fund to provide evacuees with mattresses, plastic water containers, water purification chemicals and essential drugs and dry foods. The UNICEF and United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) are also collaborating with the Jordanian Government to distribute high protein biscuits supplied through the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO).

A spokesman for the Secretary-General said UNDRO will work closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which has its own role to play. The spokesman said the Secretary-General would welcome any contributions by Governments to "this important multilateral humanitarian effort".

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/715
30 August 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary- General arrives in Jordan for talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister.

+ UNCTAD official says Gulf crisis could have both a positive and a negative effect on Paris Conference on LDCs.

+ Commission against Apartheid in Sports concludes second session.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was expected to arrive in Amman Jordan this evening where he is scheduled to meet tomorrow morning with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and discuss all aspects of the Gulf situation.

This morning, the Secretary-General held talks with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas at the Quai d'Orsay, where he was informed of France's position on the Gulf question.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, the Secretary-General said he felt that the moment had arrived to undertake a diplomatic initiative to try and engage in a dialogue with the Iraqi authorities. "It is not for me", he stressed, "to negotiate the resolutions adopted by members of the Security Council". He said he would try and obtain the implementation of the resolutions. On the humanitarian aspect of the problem, the Secretary-General said he would rely on the humanitarian spirit of the Iraqi authorities.

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It is the view of the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) that the current situation in the Gulf could have both a positive and negative impact on the United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, which begins in Paris next week.

Yves Bertholou told reporters in Geneva that the Gulf situation would distract attention from the Conference and that an increase in oil prices, with a probable resulting rise in interest rates and a global economic

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slowdown, would require the upward revision of aid targets for the least developed countries.

The Paris meeting is aimed at speeding up the development of the world's poorest countries and at improving the living standards of their 400 million people. The UNCTAD official said he was reasonably optimistic that the programme to be discussed in Paris would take better account of the fragility of those countries' economies and their inability to react to external shocks and climatic hazards.

Delegates from 150 countries will try to agree on a 10-year programme to help the poorest countries grow out of poverty and overcome structural weaknesses.

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The Commission against Apartheid in Sports concluded its second session, after adopting its report to the General Assembly. The report recommends that the Assembly urge all those States that have signed the Convention against Apartheid in Sports, but have not yet ratified it, to do so, and all States that have not signed the Convention to accede to it without delay.

The Commission also recommended that the Assembly call on States to co-operate with the Commission and the Special Committee against Apartheid, in matters relating to sports. It further recommended that the Assembly urge all States, organizations and individuals to maintain the sports boycott against South Africa.

The Commission also appealed to governments, international, regional and national sporting bodies, as well as other governing bodies and players' associations to provide material and technical assistance to non-racial South African sports organizations and athletes sponsored by them, and to support the efforts of the International Olympic Committee to strengthen the structural, administrative and other organizational aspects of black sports organizations in South Africa.

In a closing statement, the Chairman, James Victor Gbeho (Ghana), said the work of the Commission was becoming an integral part of the effort of the international community to bring about a speedy eradication of apartheid.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/716
31 August 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General describes discussions with Iraqi Foreign Minister as useful.

+ Crime Prevention Congress in Havana discusses international co-operation.

+ United Nations Convention on Rights of Child comes into force on Sunday.

+ ILO Director-General calls on Iraq to allow foreign workers departure.

+ Special Committee against Apartheid calls for end to violence in South Africa.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar met for two hours in Amman today with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. Later, he told reporters that all aspects of the situation had ben raised and both he and the Iraqi Foreign Minister were convinced that those meetings were useful. That was why, he said, they were meeting again in the early evening to continue their discussions.

According to a spokesman accompanying the Secretary-General, he told the press upon his arrival in Amman that Jordan had provided him with the proper forum for his talks with Iraqi authorities. He said he had come with hopes of moving towards a lessening of tensions and finding a solution to "this explosive problem".

In answer to a reporter's question, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said he was in Jordan for an exchange of views with the Iraqi authorities because he believed that that Government was as eager as everyone to find a full and lasting solution to the problem.

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Technical assistance to developing countries, strengthening of the role of the United Nations and increased international co-operation to combat transnational crime were among the issues raised during the first week of the Eighth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Treatment of Offenders taking place in Havana, Cuba. The Congress also heard calls for the unconditional abolition of capital punishment and the lifting of bank secrecy to prevent money laundering.

The need to create an effective crime and justice programme and to convene a world ministerial summit on the subject were also stressed during this week. The Congress also heard arguments for and against the establishment of an international criminal court of justice and the formulation of a new convention against crime. Speakers said that the United Nations crime prevention programme should be cost-effective and set clear priorities to make the best use of scarce resources. Criminal justice policies, they said, should take into account humane treatment and rehabilitation of the offender.

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The Convention on the Rights of the Child comes into force on Sunday, 2 September. On 26 January 1990, the Convention had been signed by 61 countries -- an unprecedented first year response for any United Nations treaty. To date, 105 States have signed the Convention; 29 have ratified it and 2 have acceded to it.

The Convention sets standards which address the neglect and abuse that children face in all countries to varying degrees, and recognizes their special vulnerability. It also recognizes the child as an individual, with needs that evolve with age and maturity. Accordingly, it seeks to balance the rights of the child with the rights and duties of parents and others who have responsibilities for child survival, development and protection.

* * *

The Director-General of the International Labour Office, Michel Hansenne, has called on President Saddam Hussein of Iraq to allow foreign workers who are detailed in Kuwait and Iraq to return to their countries.

The message was sent following the receipt of various reports and expressions of concern about the situation of foreign workers in Kuwait and Iraq as a result of recent events, and in accordance with the mandate of the International Labour Organisation to protect the interests of workers employed in countries other than their own.

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The Special Committee against Apartheid has made an urgent appeal to all parties concerned to seek a mechanism that would stop the senseless violence and enhance the possibility of a future national reconciliation.

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In a statement, the Chairman, Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria), said the Committee was deeply concerned at the deterioration of the situation in South Africa at a time when the possibility of a negotiated end to apartheid had arisen. Reports of continuing violence which had resulted in the deaths of large numbers of persons were a cause for distress.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/717
4 September 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General meets in Paris with President of Afghanistan; President of Uganda, current Chairman of Organization of African Unity; President of France; Foreign Minister of Federal Republic of Germany; King Hussein of Jordan; participates in opening of Conference on Least Developed Countries.

+ Secretary-General expresses disappointment over his discussions with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

+ Second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries begins in Paris.

+ Secretary-General welcomes entry into force of Convention of the Rights of the Child.

+ United Nations Disaster Relief Organization reiterates urgent appeal to international community to help displaced persons at Jordanian/Iraqi border.

* * *

A United Nations official said that Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar had met today in Paris with President Najibullah of Afghanistan who had informed the Secretary-General in detail of recent changes in his country to democratize political life. They also discussed the Secretary-General's efforts as well as United Nations humanitarian assistance provided by Operation Salaam and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The United Nations official said the Secretary-General was spending the rest of the day preparing a report to the Security Council on his mission to Amman, and was expected to return to New York tomorrow morning.

Yesterday the Secretary-General addressed the opening of the second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, and also held

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high-level talks concentrating on the situation in the Middle East, following his talks with Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Tariq Aziz, in Amman, Jordan.

Prior to the Conference, the Secretary-General met with President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda in his capacity as Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). They discussed among other things the situation in Liberia, where President Museveni explained his own initiative and the OAU position; and Western Sahara, with the Secretary-General informing the President of latest developments including the recent visit to the Territory by a United Nations mission.

Following that meeting he discussed the Gulf situation in separate meetings with French President Francois Mitterand and with the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Late yesterday evening the Secretary-General met with King Hussein of Jordan regarding their respective diplomatic efforts. The economic difficulties encountered by Jordan because of the Security Council embargo against Iraq and the influx of refugees from Kuwait were discussed. The Secretary-General assured the King that the United Nations would contribute as much as possible to alleviate those problems.

On arrival in Paris from Amman on Sunday, the Secretary-General met with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas concerning the results of his mission. They had dealt with legal and political aspects of the political crisis, as well as with humanitarian aspects, the Secretary-General said, stressing the need for full implementation of the Security Council resolutions.

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The Secretary-General in a statement read out to the press before leaving Amman on Sunday said that he had invited the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Iraq, Tariq Aziz to meet with him out of "deep concern" about the escalating tension in the region and the need to avert a further deterioration of the situation. He said that he had impressed on the Minister the gravity with which the Security Council viewed the crisis, as evidenced in the five resolutions that had been adopted under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

Despite the difficulties apparent to him before he came to Amman, he had acted out of his strong conviction, as well as his sense of duty, that all possible means of achieving a peaceful solution had to be explored, the Secretary-General said.

On the political side, the Iraqi Minister had stressed to him, as he had stated publicly, that his Government would take no step that could escalate the military situation. On humanitarian matters, the Minister drew particular attention to the need for adequate food and medical supplies for the people of Iraq.

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The Secretary-General said that during their exchanges on the humanitarian issues, he had welcomed the decision of the Iraqi Government that all women and children from third countries would be permitted to leave Iraq if they so wished. However, he had emphasized that this decision should be followed by another, namely that restrictions on the movement of all third-country nationals should be lifted.

Indicating his Government's views, the Iraqi Minister had stressed in particular the need for an Arab solution. The Secretary-General in reply had told him that while he fully shared his Government's assessment that a solution of the crisis would require a major Arab role, the international dimension to the conflict had to be acknowledged. He said the principles and global interests involved, the large build-up of forces in the area and the presence in Iraq and Kuwait of many third-country nationals made it clear that the United Nations, as well as Arab Governments, would have to be involved in resolving the many issues at stake.

The Secretary-General finally said that he had to acknowledge a "certain disappointment" because he had hoped for more in the discussions with Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. He said that he would brief members of the Security Council on the talks on his return to New York.

* * *

The Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries opened yesterday at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's headquarters in Paris with participating delegations from more than 100 countries attending the opening ceremony.

President François Mitterand of France, in an address before the Conference, said that promises made by donor countries back in 1981 to double their official development assistance had not been upheld by most industrial nations. He said that France was only one of eight countries that reached the target -- several countries among the richest were far from reaching that figure.

According to experts, the draft programme before the Conference is qualitatively different from its predecessor as it contains new elements of development strategy that were missing from the Programme of Action adopted by the first Conference in Paris in 1981.

Among the new proposals are the general recognition of the need for structural adjustment programmes, the role of the indigenous sector, and the question of human rights.

Some 400 million people of the 41 least developed countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific face special handicaps rooted in their poverty. The Conference, which ends on 14 September, will be the scene of far-ranging negotiations which are expected to lead to the adoption of a new international 10-year programme of action aimed at accelerating development in those countries.

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The Secretary-General welcomes the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In a message marking the occasion, the Secretary-General described the Convention as an important step towards the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, "without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion as called for by the United Nations".

In less than a month, the Secretary-General pointed out, the World Summit for Children would take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, where many Heads of States and Government would renew their commitment to the survival, protection and development of the child and to adopt a declaration and a plan of action for that purpose.

* * *

The United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO) in its latest report released today on the situation in Jordan at the Jordanian/Iraqi border reiterates an "urgent appeal" to the international community to help the displaced persons currently staying there in their attempt to leave Kuwait and Iraq.

According to governmental estimates, 105,000 displaced people were currently in Jordan, the report said. The situation remained critical at the border area between Jordan and Iraq, where some 60,000 people were concentrated. The UNDRO report stated that some of these mostly urban people of Asian origin, had been awaiting repatriation for almost two weeks. Despite all efforts from the Jordan Government, assisted by international relief organizations, initial relief supplies were now virtually exhausted.

In an earlier report, UNDRO said that the influx of displaced persons continued steadily at a rate of 15,000 to 20,000 daily with increasing numbers of women and children. The Agency estimated that the overall requirements would amount to some $19 million. Response to the appeal had so far amounted to $9 million of which Japan had contributed $8 million in cash. The UNDRO airlifts had been financed by Italy, Norway and Japan.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/718
5 September 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ UNDP announces $2 billion grant for Least Developed Countries at Conference in Paris.

+ High Commissioner for Refugees appeals for assistance to 500,000 Liberians in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

+ Crime Congress in Havana calls on States to enact criminal legislation to protect nature and environment.

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The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will provide $2 billion or 55 per cent of its programme resources in grants to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) during the period 1992 to 1997.

This was announced yesterday in Paris by William H. Draper III, Administrator of UNDP, in his address to the Second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries.

He added that the 1980s had been a difficult decade for the LDCs and cited debt, depressed commodity prices and inappropriate domestic policies as contributing factors to the social and economic decline prevalent in those countries.

In order to halt and reverse the crisis, Mr. Draper proposed an action plan which called for a substantial increase in grant in donor countries' assistance to the LDCs. On their side, the LDCs should increase their investment in improving the living standards of their deprived populations by diverting expenditures from the military and from inefficient state enterprises, Mr. Draper said.

In his opening remarks, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar stated that reducing the gap between rich and poor nations was an imperative ethical question. No nation could sit by and see other nations being left behind.

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He said the draft programme of action pointed to the responsibility of the international community, particularly the industrial countries, to support the efforts of the LDCs, including financial and trade measures that would alleviate the problems those countries were facing.

K.K.S. Dadzie, Secretary-General of the Conference and Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), noted that nine years after the first Paris Conference in 1981 there had been no significant improvement in the economic, social and human fabric of most LDCs.

He said that a major feature of the consensus forged in the preparatory processes concerned the "primary responsibility of the LDCs for their own development". They should be free to choose and be responsible for implementing their own policies.

Each country's efforts would be more likely to succeed if they were based on a democratically derived social consensus and recognition of the full range of human rights.

Given the conditions prevailing in the world economy and in the LDCs, Mr. Dadzie called on donors to stand ready to double current official development assistance flows within five years, with the aim of providing 0.20 per cent of their GNP as official assistance to the LDCs by the end of the century.

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The number of Liberian refugees in the Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone continues to increase, according to a spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

At an emergency press briefing at the Palais des Nations in Geneva yesterday, the spokesman said that from almost 145,000 refugees in February, when the UNHCR launched its first funding appeal to the international community, numbers had more than tripled, rising to half a million at the present time.

The increased numbers had inevitably led to greater assistance needs and the UNHCR had been obliged to revise its February appeal upwards from some $11 million to about $16 million, he said. So far, contributions received for UNHCR assistance in the three affected countries amounted to only some $6 million. An additional $2 million had been allocated from the Office's emergency fund, which should be replenished in due course from contributions to the appeal.

The spokesman also announced that the High Commissioner, Thorvald Stoltenberg, had returned from an official visit to Iran which included meetings with the Prime Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of the Interior on the various aspects of the refugee situation in the country.

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Iran played host to some 2.3 million Afghan refugees and, according to government figures, over 500.000 refugees from Iraq. The UNHCR provides assistance to some 100.000 of the more recent arrivals, Kurd refugees, who have entered Iran since 1987.

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The Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders has called on Member countries to promote criminal sanctions against the dumping of hazardous wastes and to consider enacting criminal legislation to protect persons threatened by the deterioration of the environment.

Among other resolutions adopted by the Congress one urged Governments to intensify international co-operation to combat transnational crime, computer fraud, misuse of banking facilities and the manipulation of tax laws, corruption, pollution and destruction of the environment, and illegal trafficking in narcotics.

The Congress which ends its work on Friday was held for the first time in 1955 and has been convened every five years since then.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/719
6 September 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Kuwait complains that medical equipment has been seized by Iraqi authorities and taken to Baghdad.

+ Security Council hears Secretary-General's report on mission to Amman.

+ UNICEF Executive Board begins two-day special session concerning World Summit for Children.

+ Presidents of Uganda, Bangladesh and Sudan address Conference on Least Developed Countries.

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The Permanent Representative of Kuwait, Mohammad A. Abulhasan has complained in a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 5 September, that medical equipment used in intensive care units of many hospitals in Kuwait has been seized by Iraqi occupation authorities and taken to Baghdad.

According to sources in Kuwait's health institutions, this had led to the death of many patients who were receiving intensive care.

The incubators in maternity hospitals used for children suffering from retarded growth -- also called premature children -- had been removed, causing the death of all the children who were under treatment.

Plasma deposits at the blood bank had also been removed and transferred to Baghdad. The inmates of mental hospitals and centres for the disabled had been released and allowed to roam the streets without any care or attention.

The Kuwaiti representative called these actions "crimes against humanity" and expressed hope that the International Committee of the Red Cross would be able to send a delegation to his country.

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Members of the Security Council met this morning in informal consultations to hear the oral report of the Secretary-General on his talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister, Tariq Aziz, last weekend in Amman, Jordan.

The spokesman for the Secretary-General said that the report was strictly an oral one and would not be issued as a document of the Security Council and would not be available to the press.

* * *

The Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) began a two-day special session today at Headquarters to consider final arrangements for the World Summit for Children to be held at United Nations Headquarters later this month.

In a speech to the Executive Board, the Agency's Executive Director, James P. Grant, said that the preparations for the Summit had already produced two results: the entering into force last Sunday of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as binding international law for those nations which have ratified the pact, and a surge in the drive towards Universal Child Immunization by the end of this year.

The Heads of State or Government of 75 countries have so far agreed to attend the World Summit for Children. The Summit will focus on universal problems affecting children, among them the ravages of preventable diseases, malnutrition, lack of water and sanitation, inadequate or non-existent education, homelessness, abandonment, drugs and the impact of AIDS, child labour, exploitation and children as victims of armed conflict.

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Addressing the Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Paris, the President of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, called for the banishment of both political dictatorship and the "intolerance of varied perceptions".

Mr. Museveni also said that the least developed countries should eliminate the lack of accountability in government as well as the corruption which was siphoning scarce resources to "secret bank accounts in the North".

The President of Bangladesh, Hussain Muhammad Ershad, said that poor countries needed to transform their societies, with the initiative for change coming from within the countries concerned and all external impediments to growth removed.

Omar Hassan Ahmed El Bashir, President of the Sudan, said his country, whose economic and social problems were similar to those of other LDCs, had adopted radical reforms, at a very high social cost. He called for a partnership between the poor countries and their development partners based on mutual interest not charity.

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The representative of Mexico, Manuel Tello, who spoke on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries, reiterated an appeal to donors to double their current aid levels to LDCs by 1995, aiming at the target of 0.20 per cent of their gross national product by the end of the decade.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/720
7 September 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General submits progress report on implementation of Security Council decision on trade embargo against Iraq and Kuwait.

+ Secretary-General asks Council to consider establishment of preparatory office for United Nations verification mission which is to be set up at appropriate time to monitor El Salvador's forthcoming elections.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has informed the Security Council that the United Nations has received a total of 140 replies from 106 countries stating they have taken steps to implement Council's resolution 661 of 6 August which calls on member countries to prevent export and import of all commodities and products to and from Iraq or Kuwait.

In a progress report to the Council, issued yesterday, the Secretary-General, further, pointed out that nine States (Bulgaria, India, Jordan, Lebanon, the Philippines, Romania, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Yugoslavia) had informed the Organization that they were confronted with special economic problems from the carrying out of the resolution and had, in accordance with Article 50 of the Charter, requested consultations with the Council concerning a solution of those problems. In addition, two States -- the Sudan and Yemen -- have indicated their intention to consult the Council in that regard.

The Secretary-General added that he had taken note of the fact that the Sanctions Committee, which was established by that resolution, has been requested by the Security Council to meet on an urgent basis to consider those communications and to submit a report with their recommendations, as soon as possible.

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The Secretary-General has asked the Security Council to consider the possibility of establishing in El Salvador a preparatory office for the United Nations verification mission, which has been envisaged in the role of monitoring the forthcoming elections in that country at the appropriate time.

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In addition to the monitoring of elections, the responsibilities foreseen for the Organization include monitoring of a cessation of armed conflict and verification of respect of human rights.

In a letter to the Council President, dated 29 August, the Secretary-General stated that the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN), during the most recent round of direct talks just concluded in Costa Rica under his auspices, had expressed the wish that preparations for carrying out those responsibilities be initiated at the earliest possible date.

The Secretary-General said that in the absence of a formal and verifiable cessation of combat, there was no certainty that conditions existed for carrying out those envisaged responsibilities "in a systematic fashion" throughout El Salvador. Therefore, he believed that the time had come to take steps which would put the United Nations in a position to assess the local situation and to initiate preparations so as to undertake the monitoring tasks as soon as circumstances permitted.

The President of the Council, in a letter dated yesterday, informed the Secretary-General that he had brought the request to the attention of the Council members.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/721
10 September 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General welcomes joint statement by four Cambodian parties accepting Security Council plan on framework for comprehensive peace settlement in that country.

+ UNICEF Executive Board approves total budget of $2,994,762 for World Summit for Children and $2,139,683 for related mobilization activities.

+ Kuwait says Iraqi occupation forces are "savagely intensifying their inhumane practices against innocent civilians".

+ Administrative and Budgetary Committee advises General Assembly that there is no need for additional appropriations should it adopt two drafts on Namibia.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has welcomed a joint statement by the four Cambodian parties who ended their meeting in Jakarta today, in which they agreed on a United Nations framework for a comprehensive settlement of the Cambodian problem.

His spokesman told correspondents today that the Secretary-General, after having been informed by his Special Representative for Humanitarian Affairs in South-East Asia, Rafeeuddin Ahmed, of the outcome of the meeting, the Secretary-General had expressed hope that the way was now clear for a resolution to the problem of Cambodia and the restoration of peace in that country.

On 27 August -- after eight months of negotiation -- the five permanent members of the Council reached agreement which among other things suggests transfer of temporary control of the country to the United Nations.

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The Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) last Friday ended its special session devoted to preparations for the World Summit

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for Children by approving a total budget of $2,994,762 for the Summit itself -- to be held at Headquarters the last two days of September -- and by approving a total budget of $2,139,683 for related mobilization activities.

The Summit is expected to adopt a declaration and plan of action, which will be presented to the General Assembly on 1 October.

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The Permanent Representative of Kuwait, Mohammad A. Abulhasan, has complained in a letter dated 8 September to the Secretary-General, that the Iraqi occupation forces have been "savagely intensifying their inhumane practices" against innocent civilians in Kuwait.

Mr. Abulhasan said the violations included killings in the streets, in the presence of the victims' families; summary executions; massive, random arrests; and burning and destruction of homes.

He called on the Secretary-General to take whatever measures he deemed necessary to put an end to those violations.

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The Administrative and Budgetary Committee this morning decided to advise the General Assembly that no additional appropriations would be required, should the Assembly adopt two draft resolutions concerning the continuation of activities recommended by the Council for Namibia.

Those activities would include a request that the Secretary-General continue to provide the necessary resources to complete the implementation of programme activities approved by the Council for Namibia for 1990, and to arrange the transfer of the programmes, assets and activities of the Council to the Government of Namibia.

The drafts would have the Assembly decide that the United Nations Fund for Namibia continue to operate so as to ensure the orderly completion of all programmes financed from it. The Assembly would also establish a committee to serve as the trustee of the Fund until its dissolution, and decide that the Fund would operate under the custody of the Secretary-General.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/722
11 September 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ General Assembly dissolves Council for Namibia, requests completion of activities approved for 1990, places Namibia Fund under Secretary-General's custody.

+ Spokesman states Secretary-General is "concerned" by the continuing deterioration of the situation in Cyprus due to developments in past months and the lack of progress in the negotiating process.

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The General Assembly, stating that the United Nations Council for Namibia had fulfilled its mandate, this afternoon dissolved the Council and requested that the Secretary-General continue to provide the necessary resources to complete the programme activities approved earlier by the Council for 1990.

The United Nations Fund for Namibia, in accordance with a further Assembly decision, will continue under the custody of the Secretary-General. The Assembly also decided to establish the United Nations Trust Committee to serve as Trustee of the Fund.

The Assembly took those actions by adopting two draft texts contained in the final report of the Council for Namibia.

By other terms of those resolutions, the Assembly asked the Secretary-General to appeal to Governments for voluntary contributions to the Fund, and to credit the Fund with the $1.5 million already allocated for 1990 under the regular budget.

In a statement to the General Assembly today, the Secretary-General expressed his appreciation of the role played by the Council for Namibia over the past 23 years. He went on to say that, while with the Council's dissolution the intimate association of the United Nations with Namibia's quest for independence had concluded, the Organization's commitment to Namibia had not diminished. "The United Nations has already begun to orient its activities and co-operation to the tasks of helping the Namibian people to consolidate their newly won freedom through social and economic development."

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The Spokesman for Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said today the Secretary-General was concerned by the continued deterioration of the situation in Cyprus due to developments in the past months and the lack of progress in the negotiating process between the two leaders. The Secretary-General has stated the trend must be reversed; and he hoped it will be possible to implement his plan of action without delay.

He said this in reply to questions asked recently by correspondents about the intentions of the Secretary-General with regard to his mission of good offices in Cyprus and to the questions that had been raised about the application of Cyprus to the European Community for membership.

Responding further, the Spokesman said that the Security Council had called on the leaders of the two communities to pursue their efforts to reach freely a mutually acceptable solution and to co-operate, on an equal footing, with the Secretary-General. He said that members of the Council had endorsed the plan of action proposed by the Secretary-General in his report of 12 July in order to achieve this goal.

In resolution 649, the Council made it clear, he said, that the solution being sought has to be a bi-communal and bi-zonal federation that will ensure the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-alignment of Cyprus and will exclude union in part or in whole with any other country or any form of partition or secession.

Stating that the overall agreement to be negotiated must cover all the issues that make up the Cyprus question, the Spokesman added it was envisaged that matters relating to Cyprus's membership in the European Community would be discussed in that context.

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